جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالأنظائية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأرتشية ،الراي،

Christian leaders call for dialogue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) - The leaders of the major Christian churches in Jerusalem issued a Christmas appeal Friday for peace negotiations to end the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "Our region is living one of its most crucial crisis in its modern history, dangerously poised on the brink of war," the church leaders said in a statement. They called on "peace-loving people" to try to influence world leaders "so that they may resolve the conflict in the Gulf without bloodshed and its inevitable loss of human lives." The church leaders decried the conditions of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, "The prospects of constructive dialogue and peace in the bely land are receding," the churchmen's statement said. "Despair is the pervasive mood." They called for "the path of negotiation rather than violence." The church leaders said that because of the continuing problems in the occupied territories, they would restrict Christmas festivities to religious ecremonies "without any manifestation of jubilation." They said holiday prayers would be devoted "to peace of the land and the world."

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AMMAN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1990, JUMA'DAH AL THANI 4, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Crown Prince: Chances for

peace in Gulf appear slim

The Crown Prince replied:

stand; that is to say the Algerian

initiative is still on the ground if

the Iragis and the Saudis are

able to talk to each other. Un-

fortunately, there has been so

much confusion over the Arab

solution, or the Arab contribu-

tion rather, to U.N. Resolution

660. It seems that the Americans

today, or the coalition today, is

uncomfortable about direct

"I think pretty slim as things

Tow transplains of its leukemia pick his half of the contre. Thomas, whose picks are centre. Thomas, lev to Search t where he is a least but welcomes dialogue is year's Nobel in BONN (Agencies) — Iraq will He accused U.S. President about the date of the visit. n. Thomas and its distribution of the visit.

dited with party fore Jan. 15, the U.N. deadline fore Jan. 15, the U.N. deadline announced: Saddam Hussein said in an interannounced his view with German television

Asked if his country would withdraw by Jan. 15 from Kuwait, Saddam replied: "No." He added: "In a war there will Store to be many losses, not just in human life, also for those who now say yes to war. Allah is on our side. That is why we will beat the

The interview was recorded in Baghdad Thursday.

Saddam said Baghdad was still i fan belts, to enter into talks with the United States, which leads the isry on the multinational force massed ch day as the mit against Iraq in the Gulf.

"The door to dialogue is still mer Reynaldik ating.

Israeli troops shot dead one

mas in the Golan Heights on

Nov. 22. They had attempted to

cross into Syria to pass intelli-

DOHA (R) - Qatar has invited

the first time since its creation in

1981, an Iramian editor said Fri-

caught Druze

George Bush of planning a war against Iran best said Bush would not be able to see it through "because he is a bad leader."

Earlier on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in Washington Iraqi behaviour gave no grounds for optimism that war could be averted.

He told reporters after meeting British Prime Minister John

"So far at least, the behaviour of the government of Iraq... would not make one optimistic that we could succeed in our very strong efforts to achieve a political peaceful resolution."

Baker said he had still not heard from Baghdad about the date of his proposed visit to the Iraqi capital for talks with President Saddam.

The parties have been squabbling for more than two weeks

Combined agency dispatches

AIR RAID SIRENS blared

across Baghdad, and more than

one million Iragis fled their

homes Friday in a major evacua-

tion drill in response to fears that

U.S.-organised forces could

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick

Cheney_told troops Friday in

Saudi Arabia that it is in-

creasingly likely war will be

needed to oust Iraq from

Kuwait, and that "absolute,"

total victory" is the only option

attack Iraqi sites.

It was supposed to be a last effort to avert war before a United Nations resolution authorising the use of force against

Baker said the resolution passed by the Security Council on Nov. 29 "makes credible the possibility of the use of force." But he declined to comment on whether war was becoming more

Iraq takes effect Jan. 15.

National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft said President Bush intended to force Iraq to withdraw even if it means war.

"One of the important points we're trying to get across to (Iraq) is that we baven't blinked so far, we're not blinking now and we will not blink." Scowcroft said Friday in an interview with wire service reporters.

Scowcroft said the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline was not a date for starting a war, but he added, "if

Iraqis rehearse evacuation;

not getting the message and we'll

have to use force," Cheney said.

Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the

troops with Cheney. Powell said

he still hoped for a peaceful

resolution of the crisis. But he

launch it violently, we will

launch it in a way that will make

it decisive so we can get it over

as quickly as possible and there's

U.S. President George Bush

reportedly told members of con-

When we launch it, we will

Colin Powell, chairman of the

Cheney says war likely

necessary, we will carry out the mandate of the Security Coun-

Irag has said the United States must make the next move to break the deadlock over arrangements for talks.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz as telling Soviet Ambassador Victor Posuvaliuk that threats would not change Baghdad's position on the dates for planned meetings.

"The Iraqi position will not change one millimetre under threat and in an atmosphere of ultimatums," the agency quoted Aziz as saving. "We do not even recognise (Security Council) Resolution 678 and the date of Jan. 15 which it fixed."

Asked by the ambassador whether he thought the dialogue with Washington would take

(Continued on page 5)

be made to realise "he's going to

get his ass kicked" if it comes to

Friday, Iraqis poured into the

streets, some ran on foot to civil

defence centres set up by the

civil defence centres took eva-

Hundreds of buses waiting at

lragis wern't the only ones

taking extra precautions. Suez

Canal authorities have stepped

up security, especially for ships

carrying cement, because of con-

government.

At the sound of the first siren

over U.N. call; Israel assails Washington

By Ghadeer Taber Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN - Jordanian officials Friday reacted cautiously to a U.N. Security Council resolution criticising Israeli practices in the occupied territories, saying that while the resolution was a step in the right direction it fell short of expectations of a cali for an international peace conference.

Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin said Resolution 681, endorsed unanimously Thursday after weeks of protracted negotiations and at least eight postponements, 'falls short of our expectations but at the same time it is a step in the right

direction." "We would have liked to see

an article, or part of the resoluwith the Gulf crisis. tion specifically, mention the possibility of convening an international peace conference,"

Izzeddin told the Jordan Times. The final version of the resolution, drastically watered down from the original draft, proposed by the non-aligned group in the council, recommended measures to monitor Israel's treatment of Palestinians and deplored the occupation power's resumption of expulsions of Palestinians. A reference to an international peace conference was relegated to a separate and vague nonbinding statement, in what was seen as a diplomatic victory for

the United States, which refused

to support any resolution that

would appear to "reward" Iraq

no other details, said the state

Shevardnadze told parliament

Thursday he did not want any

part of a "dictatorship" being

created under pressure of hard-

liners. His resignation prompted

worldwide concern over the fu-

ture of reform in the Soviet

His resignation also domin-

ated discussion in parliament

Friday morning, and a Ukrai-

nian lawmaker later said a right-

wing "coup" was going on under

Vladimir Chernyak, a deputy

elected from Kiev, cited the res-

ignation of Shevardnadze and

the replacement of Interior

the parliament's nose.

news agency TASS.

Union.

or link the Arab-Israeli conflict

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chances for

a peaceful resolution of the Gulf

crisis appear slim, given the state

of Arab efforts, the bickering

over direct American-Iraqi con-

tacts and military preparations in

the Gulf, His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan said Fri-

view with British Television, was

asked how he judged the chance

of resolving the four-and-a-half-

month-old crisis peacefully.

welcome to U.N. resolution

Jordan extends cautious

Egypt, Syria enthusiastic, PLO sceptical

The Crown Prince, in an inter-

Despite the resolution's shortcomings, Izzeddin said, there are "positive elements" in the resolution. It has "specifically mentioned Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories... and (called for) a meeting of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva

Convention which could en-

hance the mechanism to protect

Palestinians." But, he said, Jordan had expected "more specific and immediate measures, such as creating an immediate international presence that would effectively protect the Palestinians" in the occupied territories.

Taher Al Masri, chairman of

(Continued on page 5) Shevardnadze to stay

if war breaks out. cern that Iraq could try to block gress one day earlier that Iragi "It increasingly looks like he's President Saddam Hussein must Iraq ready for honourable concessions, Algeria tells Italy

no question who won."

De Michelis: EC may take initiative

said:

ROME (Agencies) — Iraq is willing to compromise to avert war in the Gulf, but will not accept a solution that sullies its honour, Algeria's foreign minis-

conference. Ghozali was speaking after Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, fresh from a Middle East dad, arrived in Rome at the start

Italian officials briefing reporters said later Benjedid told his hosts Iraq would be willing to make concessions on Kuwait as long as it received guarantees it would not be attacked after any

Washington.

EC foreign ministers meeting in Brussels Tuesday ruled out a

welcomed to participate in his

his appointment Thursday.

"I know the difficulties facing

me, but with faith, strong will

and sincere cooperation from all

factions we can reach safety."

tion of a "national reconcilia-

difficulties after the heads of

several private milipias criticised

Karami's plans for a 30-man

into the cabinet the rival heads

of the militias that tore Lebanon

apart would be a setback to the

They said the failure to bring

cabinet.

Political sources said forma-

government would face

meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareg Aziz unless he met President George Bush first. In an interview in the Rome newspaper La Repubblica on Thursday, de Michelis said his EC counterparts agreed with his suggestion for an autonomous initiative.

"I also said (in Brussels) that if by the end of the year it seems clear that direct talks between Baghdad and Washington appear impracticable, then the EC should make its own autonomous effort before Jan. 15," he

He added; "It seemed to me that the entire council of ministers of the community was in agreement on this position."

Officials said Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti was clearly worned that the lack of dialogue between the United States and Iraq, aggravated last week by a row over dates for talks, made war inevitable.

what worried Iraqi President Saddam Hussein most was Western insistence that any settlement would have to make sure

ter said Friday.

"Iraq certainly seeks a peaceful solution and is willing to pay the price for it — but not any price — and it will not accept any settlement that sullies its bonour," Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghozali told a news

trip that included talks in Baghof a European tour for talks on the Gulf crisis.

withdrawal. The Algerian leader said that

BEIRUT (R) - Newly

appointed Prime Minister Omar

Karami started talks Friday with

Lebanon's political leaders on

forming a national unity govern-

than 15 years of civil war.

ment charged with ending more

in the history of the country.

Either an efficient and strong

new government is formed or

the country will be declining

towards an unprecedented de-

pression," the leftist newspaper

Karami, a 54-year-old pro-

Syrian Sunni Muslim, met Par-

liament Speaker Hussein Hus-

scini, former Prime Minister

Salim Al Hoss and parliament

members to discuss ways of per-

suading Lebanon's rival militia

reporters all groups would be

The new prime minister told

leaders to join his cabinet.

Al Safir said.

"This is a very critical period

lrag's military might is eliminated. The officials said Benjedid had not specifically mentioned

an Iraqi withdrawal and had not gone into detalis of what kind of concessions or partial deal Baghdad might settle for to secure a peaceful solution. Italian Foreign Minister Gian-

ni de Michelis told the news conference that the European Community (EC), which Italy currently chairs, would for the moment not drop its insistence that Irag must speak to Washington before the EC.

De Michelis has said that the EC should take an independent initiative on the Gulf crisis if there is no hope of direct dialogue between Baghdad and

New Lebanese premier begins

administration.

efforts for unity government Arab-brokered, internationally

backed peace march in the coun-

The next government is a reconciliatory one. Its goals will Thousands of troops took over be disbanding and disarming the militia-run areas of Beirut earmilitias, and rebuilding the lier this month and united the country. Only the legitimate divided capital for the first time guns will remain in Lebanon." since 1975. Karami said in a statement after

The new cabinet is expected to disband by March all of Lebanon's private armies and establish stronger links with Syria, which has about 40,000 troops in the country.

The hardline rightists Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, which was against Karami's nomination, dismissed an enlarged government as a "carnival" and inefficient.

The Progressive Socialist Party, led by Walid Jumblatt, said such a cabinet would be "untidy."

on Gorbachev's team aide Georgy Shakhnazarov said Shevardnadze would stay "on Gorbachev's team." but offered

MOSCOW (AP) - President Mikhail Gorbachev met with Eduard Shevardnadze Friday, a day after the foreign minister's stunning resignation, and a presidential aide indicated Shevardnadze might retain a government

The two Soviet leaders discussed the Gulf crisis and arms control treaties, several government spokesmen said. When pressed, presidential

spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko indicated Shevardnadze might retain a government post.

"You don't resign and shut the door of the cabinet behind you in one minute." Ignateako said. Gorbachev will study foreign reaction to the resignation before deciding on a replacement. Ignatenko said.

It was not known whether Shevardnadze would remain in the post to attend a Moscow arms control summit Feb. 11-13 between Gorbachev and President Bush.

Earlier Friday, Gorbachev

Minister Vadim Bakatin last "A right-wing reactionary

coup is taking place in the country," Chernyak said in the par-

"Reactionaries, centralists.

said imperialists have united and are on the attack. At the head of the coup stands Gorbachev. It's possible he himself doesn't know it. By demanding for himself more and more powers, he is creating the legal basis for a dictatorship — maybe not for

himself personally." Gorbachev, who had returned to the Palace of Congresses after meeting with Shevardnadze, sat forward in his chair and listened to the speech intently with a look of displeasure on his face. He

said nothing. Hardliners have urged Gorbachev to impose a state of emergency in republics ridden by ethnic conflict and separatist movements. Gorbachev has asked the Congress of Deputies to consider constitutional amendments to strengthen his power to deal with such trouble

A representative of the reformist inter-regional group Friday told Gorbachev to reject press-

ure from hardliners.

Hopes kindled for shift in Soviet policy, but caution is the keyword

By Lamis K. Andoni Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is raising hope among ordinary Jordanian citizens that Moscow would shift to a more favourable position on the Gulf crisis, but officials and analysts caution against expectations that the change will regain for Arab causes past strong Soviet support. The resignation could well be a turning point for Soviet policies on the Middle East and worldwide, the officials and analysts say. But it (resignation) has to be seen primarily as a function of internal Soviet policies, and possibly as a failure of the post-cold war era... including the question of sending proops to Guif.

Officials and analysts view the resignation as a very important indication of the failure of Soviet foreign policy in the post cold war era to boost Moscow's international standing and warn that the Arab World should not

count on regaining the Soviet support it had enjoyed in the

Nevertheless, Shevardnadze's resignation, which came amid increasing internal Soviet opposition to military involvement in the Gulf, could prove to be an important turning point, they say.

NEWS ANALYSIS

While highly esteemed and hailed in the West, Shevardnadze is criticised by many analysts and politicians in the region for steering the Soviet foreign policy towards appeasing the United States at the expense of the Third World in general and the Arab World in particular.

Since 1985, when Shevardnadze was promoted aimost overnight to the high powered foreign portfolio, Soviet support for the national liberation movements and the Arabs has taken a rapid downward trend in favour of an unprecedented bias in

favour of American interests. Although analysts in the region agreed that the shift in the Soviet foreign policy towards the Middle East was a result of the

internal shake up in the Soviet Union and the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, Shevardnadze is blamed for pursuing policies which practically have served U.S. interests. "He just went too far," said a senior Jordanian official. Prior to the eruption of the

Gulf crisis in August, the changes in Soviet policy in the Middle East were characterised by a decline in Moscow's enthusiasm for the idea of convening an international peace conference to solve the Palestinian problem, the initiation and subsequent elevation of diplomatic contacts with Israel and, most significantly, the encouragement of mass immigration of Soviet ews to Israel.

But the shift in the Soviet

(Continued on page 5)

Arab talks. Secondly, of course, (Continued on page 5) Jordan's losses seen at \$8.3 b

there is no date for a meeting vet

between the Americans and the

Iraqis and we seem to be moving

inexorably towards the (Jan.)

thought was the assurance given

by Secretary of State James Bak-

er and repeated by the British

foreign secretary that if Iraq

withdraws and complies with the

U.N. resolution it will not be

Asked how important he

15th, and towards war."

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — Jordan stands to lose \$8.3 billion in the year from Aug. 2 1990 to Aug. 2 1991, as a

result of the Gulf crisis, a U.N. agency said Friday. The Baghdad-based Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), in a study to be released next week, said half the loss, \$4.1 billion, is in

the finance and trade sectors. According to the study, prepared by ESCWA's Amman office, most of the loss is the result of Jordanian expatriates losing their jobs in Kuwzit and

returning to Jordan. Estimates put their number at 120,000. ESCWA's assistant secretary general and chief executive for Amman office, Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber, told the Jordan Times that in addition to the loss

from expatriate remittance and Arab aid, estimated at \$1.2 billion, expatriates themselves lost \$1.5 billion in fixed assets in Kuwait and \$1.4 billion in Kuwaiti banks.

"Expatriates have also put an additional burden on Jordan in terms of housing, schooling, energy and unemployment,' Abdul Jaber said.

According to the study, released through the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Jordanian economy showed positive signs of adjustment in 1989 over 1988. Exports in 1989 rose by nine per cent, imports declined by 22 per cent and deficit dropped from \$166 million to \$100 million.

The study noted that the economy was performing well in the first half of 1990. Exports of potash, phosphates and fertilisers increased by 47 per cent, and expatriates remittances by 43 per cent and were expected to reach \$800 million by year end.

The break in trade with Iraq and Kuwait will cost Jordan \$280 million in lost revenues and imports will incur additional cost of \$120 due to an undeclared blockade on Agaba port, the study Other sectors affected by the

crisis are: Industry and tourism, \$233

million; petrol and petrol byproducts \$494 million; housing and construction \$726 million; and transport and communication \$974 million. The study puts unemploy-

ment, that stood at 20 per cent before the crisis, at 30 per cent. The study notes that Jordan's banking system depended to a large extent on Jordanian expatriates' transfers that form more than 20 per cent of all bank deposits.

Accordingly, the banking systems might face problems as a result of the crisis.

It also notes that Jordan's foreign reserves depended directly on Gulf oil revenues

(Continued on page 5)

Maintenance and Ceneral Services Tel:612702 Look page (5)

The World for

bei prize acer centy.

E (AP) - Dr. E.

er Monday his broadcast Friday.

Asked if his reds visit &

ESO, Texas (4). aggressor." in 1,000 people; ing to the bade S Store, pas te iem to the ma: of the showard Israel says it t. where thouse e seen the inter of Christ. 'Spies' . so beautiful"E nie Maldonah; TEL AVIV (R) - Israel has carned down is arrested at least three Druze M-wide image from the Israeli-annexed Golan hades of gray Heights on suspection of spying used to be one for Syria, police said Friday.

"I asked her, i Druze and arrested a second ? Why the bath from the village of Majdal Shasaid. The 45 te message that it gence information to the Syrian 's presence or the army, police said. The suspect ed the way man; who was captured admitted r jaith. "So I at spying for Syria and led police to ery customer what at least two other alleged spies said. Before i from Majdal Shamas, they art. I took themt added. at the Roman Ca ese in Browns !! Iranian journalists to commentate attend GCC summit

tosses bas Iranian journalists to attend a summit of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for DRK (API - 1 day. "The embassy of Qatar in

d baby raped: Tehran invited three newspapers agarment in to cover the summit for the first wo quick-min time since the GCC was no used a man formed," Mohammad Ansari, unfant after to editor-in-chief of the Englishher out of a feet language Tehran Times said. fell 15 ments Pakistanis held in Fruce and kinds Iranian official's the house in the killing morning with LAHORE (R) — Pakistani young mother: police in the contract of th help. The parties of the killing of and s coal to a leader official have arrested

are's coal in a leader of a militant Sunni here's no way. Friday. Qari Mohammad Khan, catch like the chief of the Asian ine. 35. 30 gall. Sahaba in the Pakistani city La in football plant hore, was detained Thursday iot of pressure night, the organisation's national with that make leader Maulana Zia-ur-Rehman Farooqi told reporters. At least one gunman shot Ardeshir Sadegh Ganji, director-general of the Iranian cultural centre in Lahore, as he stepped from his car outside a hotel in the city on Wednesday. Police say they have arrested five Pakistani men

ig moio including and with the killing, Sunni group whom they have not being held for questioning.

Sheikh Sabah

1251 May of the Sheikh Sabah encircling postpones sentenced to the control of th Prince Gentle Moscow trip Judge 18 ver BAHRAIN (AP) — Kuwait's inced to design minister in exile said he

egrets the resignation of Soviet and the Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and hopes it will not hange Moscow's stand on Iraq's upon scoupation of Knwait, the iny Morris Tiday. The agency said Sheikh e the lour said Sheikh al Ahmad Al Sabah nade the comment Thursday in said. Mis people latter where he will attend the thought in a summit conference of the the west sulf Cooperation Council that has under heikh Sabah had planned to ment and hair isit Moscow recommend to ment and ment is stated had planned to she remaind is the state of Shere at the

next week at notification of Shevardnadze, but the trip was postponed Friedrich at the trip was postponed Friedrich at mount of 415 years, lay.

rocks at month other vould in the care

Anti-war movement boosted in Europe

BONN (Agencies) — About 500 German university professors on Thursday urged the United States not to go to war with Iraq.

"We appeal to you urgently, jointly with the United Nations. to unwaveringly strive for a political solution in the Gulf instead of a military one," the professors said in a message to the U.S. embassy in Bonn.

The group maintained that "Saddam Hussein cannot for long resist pressure" from current U.N. sanctions designed to peacefully force Iraq to leave Kuwait.

"But instead we are living in a world that is preparing for a multinational war which would kill tens thousands of soldiers. including Americans, and also a large number of women and children," the professors said.

The group denounced Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, but said "this crime cannot be responded to with a war which would be a crime whose proportions would be many times grea-

The appeal was signed by professors from universities across Germany.

About 3.000 people marched through central Madrid Thursday to demand a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the area.

The protesters, who answered a march call from the Communist-led United Left (IU) coalition, trade unions and pacifist groups, demanded the return of three Spanish warships sent to the Gulf to enforce sanctions against Iraq.

Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez said Wednesday that Spain would not send troops or more warships to the Gulf in the event of war after the expiry of a United Nations deadline of Jan. 15 for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

In Strasbourg, over 40 members of the European Parliament called Thursday for peace marches in European cities on Jan.

"This war is not our war. Armed action could only be an American decision and 'could only take place under American command," said the 43 Mps, from various countries and par-

They said they were prepared to start a quest for peace in Washington and Baghdad and called on European countries to pull out of the Gulf any troops beyond those strictly necessary to enforce the U.N. trade

embargo against Iraq. Urging immediate talks on a global settlement to Middle East problems, they said they were ready to visit Iraq, the U.S. Israel and the United Nations after Jan. 13 to seek a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis.

In other Gulf development: French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre chevenement will spend Christmas with French troops in the Saudi desert, the ministry said Thursday.

France has 6,200 soldiers in the multinational force facing Iraq and President Francois Mitterrand has pledged they would fight if Baghdad failed to comply with U.N. resolutions to leave Kuwait.

- U.S. air force active-duty and reserve units will send more aircraft and people to the Gulf the U.S. military command said.

The statement said three more active-duty air force fighter units and 15 air force reserve and air national guard tanker units had begun preparations to deploy additional support.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Dramatic rise in Soviet emigre wave

ported.

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli government told airport officials Friday to prepare all available planes for the immediate transport of Soviet Jews from Eastern Europe as immigrants flooded in at a rate of about 3,000 a day.

"We have been urged by the minister of transport to make every possible aircraft available for this over the weekend and have obtained special permission to fly on the Sabbath (Saturday)" said Nachman Kleinman. spokesman for the El Al airline.

Immigration and airport workers said Friday that the rate of immigration had more than doubled in the past 24 hours.

More than 2,000 immigrants in 10 planes arrived between noon Thursday and early Friday morning while 15 other planes were expected Friday and Saturday bringing in 6.000 immig-

The shock resignation Thursday of Soviet foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze may lead to a further increase in the number of Jews going to Israel, fearing President Mikhail Gorbachev's liberal emigration policies may be reversed immigrants

Gurevich Gertsovich, 43, a librarian from Minsk, arrived with 15 relatives on Friday morning,

"We feel there is a danger that the authorities may close the doors to immigration. We have already learned that the longer you wait the worse it gets. Nothing ever good comes out of waiting so we left," she said.

The additional planes will fly

to Bucharest, Budapest and Warsaw, the transit points for Soviet jews in Eastern Europe. Religious leaders approved flights normally banned on the Jewish law which makes saving

human lives a priority over all other religious obligations. Israel and the Soviet Union, which do not have full diplomatic relations, are negotiating

direct flights. More than 180,000 Soviet immigrants have come to Israel since January and at least one million are expected by 1995.

Jews who have emigration permits are leaving by car, train, ships and airplanes to transit stations in Hungary. Romania

and Poland, the Israeli Itim news agency and Israel Radio re-

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency which handles immigrant transportation, confirmed a "dramatic increase" in Jewish immigration over the last days.

"In the last 18 hours, we have reached a peak of 21 planes landing at Ben-Gurion (airport near Tel Aviv), which have brought 3,500 immigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel. In the next 12 hours there will be another 1,500 immigrants to arrive from the Soviet Union," he

"The reasons for this dramatic increase." Dinitz added, "are the improved transportation arrangements which the Jewish Agency had achieved and also. the recent tension in the Soviet Union which prompted more immigrants to arrive."

In a statement read to the AP by his spokesman, Dinitz said a total of over 30,000 Soviet Jews are expected to reach Israel in December and that the agency's transit stations in eastern Europe can accommodate up to 50,000 people a month. However, according to Israeli reports, only some 30,000 Soviet Jews hold valid emigration permits.

The reported panic exodus appears to be linked to the present political turmoil in the Soviet Union and the surprise resignation of Shevardnadze.

Prime Ministr Yitzhak Shamir, referring to the resignation said Israel was "a little worried. because relations with Shevardnadze have been excellent every time I had a chance to meet

"But I don't think there is reason for a special concern. mean immigration," Shamir said on Israel Radio. "I don't see any reason for the wave of immigration to stop."

Israel is also expecting 20,000 Ethiopian Jews to immigrate during 1991 under an agreement signed by the government of Haile Mengistu Mariam in Addis Ababa. But reports indicate that the Israeli society is resistant to accepting them as evident in refusals to rent them apartments and to employ them.

No change in Gulf policy, Soviet spokesman says

. . .

MOSCOW (A) — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze defended himself against conservative criticism of his foreign policy in his resignation speech Thursday, denying that he planned to send Soviet troops to the Gulf.

"No one is planning to send there even one soldier, even one representative of the armed forces of the USSR," Shevardnadze said.

But he said that "if the interests of the Soviet people suffer, if even one person suffers, no matter where it happens, not only in Iraq, the Soviet nation and the Soviet government will defend the interests of its citizens."

The Soviet Union has been highly critical of the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, a close Kremlin ally. Moscow has supported a U.S.-sponsored U.N. resolution allowing the use of force if Baghdad does not pull out by Jan. 15. The cooperation between the superpowers has been closer than on any other issue since World War

The Kremlin, however, has refused to send its own forces to

the Gulf. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the current Soviet policy on the Gulf "responds to the interests of our people" and said he hoped it would not change under Shevardnadze's successor.

In his resignation speech to the Congress of People's Deputies, Shevardnadze bristled and appeared exasperated at suggestions that lawmakers adopt a resolution forbidding the leadership from sending troops to the Gulf, labelling such calls

"the last straw." "Some of the speakers say that the minister of foreign affairs has plans to deploy troops to the Persian Gulf," Shevardandze said. "I have explained. I have said that we have no plans. They do not exist."

Shevardnadze said last month that Moscow would not hesitate to send troops to the Gulf if any of the Soviet citizens trapped there were harmed.

But he also said Moscow was not planning to commit forces to any international military action, The influential conservative Soyuz (Union) group has accused Shevardnadze of secretly



Eduard Shevardnadze

planning to use Soviet soldiers in the Gulf.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union has "very good, friendly relations with Iraq, which have been built for years, and these relations are still preserved, but we do not have any moral right to agree to the aggression by Iraq, to the annexation of a very small country which cannot de-

"Then we would have crossed out everything that has been done in recent years by all our people in the sphere of establishing the principles of new political thinking," he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin, speaking later Thursday, said Shevardnadze believed the foreign policy enacted in the name of President Mikhail Gorbachev would continue under the next foreign minister.

"The policy towards the Gulf is one of the most important ones. We are convinced this policy responds to the interests of our people. We of course hope this main bearing will not be changed." Churkin said.

"The guarantee of this is that this policy is associated first of all with the name of our president. Mikhail Gorbachev." he

Asked whether there would be any changes in Soviet policy towards Washington and February's scheduled summit, Churkin underscored Shevardnadze's contributions in establishing good relations with the United States.

"We would wish that this steady process of enlargement and improvement in our relations with the United States ... should continue and develop," he said.

Amnesty says Habre executed 300 before fleeing

ternational said Friday more than 300 political prisoners were executed by members of Chad's presidential guard shortly before President Hissein Habre fled to Cameroun on Dec. 1.

rights group said those killed had been detained in secret at the president's headquarters in the capital of N'djamena. Many bodies were found in the headquarters while others appear to have been thrown in the nearby Chari River, Amensty said in a written statement.

The Nobel Peace Prizewinning group urged Chad's new president, Idriss Deby, to introduce measures to prevent similar killings of political prisoners in the future.

It called for an inquiry into the fate of hundreds of political prisoners who "disappeared" between 1982 and 1990 during

Habre's term as president. Amnesty International said several hundred political prisoners were released Dec. 1 after Habre and other senior govern-

fled to neighbouring Cameroun.

national said.

Before Habre fled, Annesty International had appealed for information about more than 100 political prisoners known to have been arrested in 1987 and

The organisation said 20 of the estimated 200 released on Dec. 1 were among those on the Amnesty International list. The group said that it appears that the others perished in prison.

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty In-

The London-based human

ment officials were ousted and

The newly released prisoners had been detained at various secret locations in the capital. Most had been held and many tortured at the site of a former swimming pool near U.S. and U.N. offices, Amnesty said.

Other political prisoners had been held secretly at a house used by former Interior Minister Djimet Togou, Amnesty Inter-

Israeli plan could get 60,000 Palestinians fired

TEL AVIV (AP) - Economics Minister David Magen said Thursday he has won wide government backing for a plan that would throw out of their jobs nearly two-thirds of the 108,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories working in Israel.

The plan is designed to free jobs for Soviet Jewish immigrants and cut the number of Palestinians coming to Israel at a time of increased resistance activities, said Magen adviser Eldad Halachmi.

Such attacks have been urged by leaders of the Palestinian uprising. Last week, three Jews were stabbed to death inside an Israeli factory, and the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas claimed responsibility.

"Employers now prefer Jewish workers instead of Arabs because of the recent violence. There is a lot of apprehension and fear," said Yossi Ahimeir, a spokesman for Prime Minister itzhak Shamir.

Some Palestinians hailed the Magen plan as a first step towards economic autonomy from Israel, but others warned that it would spell disaster for the occu-

pied territories. Palestinians in the occupied territories observed a general strike Thursday called by uprising leaders to protest the "Judaisation of Jerusalem" --the settlement of Jews in the

Arab part of the city. Magen's new plan for limiting Palestinian workers cails for strict enforcement of the labour laws that have been ignored in the past, allowing Israeli businesses to employ Arabs without work permits and pay them less than the minimum

Of the 108,000 Palestinians working at menial jobs in construction, manufacturing and agriculture, about 70,000 don't have work permits.

It is unlikely Israelis will continue to employ as many Arabs if they must have work permits, meaning they must receive the minimum wage and such benefits as pensions and health msurance. An inter-ministerial committee headed by Magen's office recommended raising fines for employers from \$250 to \$1,000 for each violation of labour laws along with an extra fine of \$150 employed, Halachmi said.

for each day an illegal worker is Magen told Israel Radio on Thursday that the plan won approval this week from all ministries involved. It now has to go to the cabinet for formal

approval. Magen said he expected about 60,000 Palestinians to lose their jobs as a result of the new !

restrictions. Palestinian economist Fawaz Abu Sitta said mass layoffs would have disastrous consequiences in the impoverished Gaza Strip where 70 per cent of the 750,000 people are refugees.

About 65,000 Gazaus, or half the local labour force, are employed in Israel, including 40.000 working without permits, Abu Sitta said.

"There is little chance that those fired will find new jobs in Gaza," he said.

Abu Sitta said several Gaza labourers have reported being turned away at an army checkpoint at the entrance of Israel in recent days after they could not ! produce work permits. The situation in the West

Bank is only slightly better than in Gaza. Palestinians have said that Israel has systematically hampered economic development in both territories to safeguard a pool of cheap Arab bbour and create a captive market for Israeli goods. Magen acknowledged some

efforts to block development in Gaza and the West Bank, but he said he now hoped to encourage investment. He added, however, only Palestinian businesses that do not compete with Israeli industry would receive help.

Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab said the Magen plan was a positive step towards Palestinian autonomy. '

"It might be a bit too quick, and it's going to cause a lot of hardship, but it's going to lead to economic separation, which we hope will be at the forefront of a political separation," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian policeman faces trial

CAIRO (AP) — A police conscript accused of killing four Israelis in a cross-border attack last month will be tried by a military court Saturday, Egypt's government agency said. The Middle East News Agency said the trial of Ayman Mohammad Hassan, 22, will be at Suez and will be public. The agency gave no details of charges or what penalty is being sought by the prosecution. Under Egyptian law, premeditated murder is punishable by death or by long imprisonment if extenuating circumstances are proved. Cairo newspaper reports on the investigation said Hassan confessed that he opened fire on Israeli vehicles and that he acted alone. On Nov. 25, a lone, uniformed gunman infiltrated from Egypt about 300 metres across the Sinai border into Israel. He shot at a bus and three military vehicles with an automatic rifle, killing four and wounding 27.

Church accuses Iran of hanging pastor

NICOSIA (R) — A Christian Evangelical church said Thursday Iran had hanged one of its ministers after two months of torture and imprisonment. The Assemblies of God, saying it was quoting sources inside Iran, reported that Hossein Soodmand — 55, Iranian and a convert from Islam — was hanged in Mashhad in northeast Iran on Dec. 3. Soodmand was accused of spying, "a charge | 1th dismissed as preposterous by friends who knew him," said a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia. Iranian officials were not available for comment.

Two killed in shootout in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) --- A gunman and a senior policeman were killed in a shootout near the central Algerian town of Sour El Ghoziane Thursday, the official news agency APS reported. Police were called to a house in Bordi Ghriss, about 90 kilometres southeast of Algiers, to deal with a group of four armed men and were met with a burst of gunfire, it said. Police fired back and captured the three other members of the group but the head of the police unit was killed in the exchange of fire. Police seized a submachinegun, an automatic pistol, knives and an axe, APS said. The agency gave no clue to the identity of the group.

Text of Resolution 681, separate statement 3. Deplores the decision by pose to invite these parties to ity Council reaffirm their deand of their recent invitation the government of Israel, the termination to support an acsubmit their views on how the extended to him.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Here is the text of Security Council Resolution 681, criticising Israel's plan to expel Palestinians from the occupied territories and giving U.S. staff authority to monitor the situa-

The Security Council, REAFFIRMING the obligations of member states under the United Nations Charter, REAFFIRMING further the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war set forth in Security Council Resolution 242

HAVING received the report of the secretary-general submitted in accordance with Security Council Resolution 672 (1990) on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation and in particular taking note of paragraphs 20-26 therein (S-21919).

TAKING note of the interest of the secretary-general to visit and send his envoy to pursue his initiative with the Israeli authorities, as indicated in paragraph 22 of the report of the secretary-general (S-21919),

GRAVELY concerned at the

dangerous deterioration of the situation in all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and at the violence and rising tension in Israel, TAKING into consideration

the statement made by the

president of the Security

Council 20 December, 1990 concerning the method and approach for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict. **RECALLING ITS RESOLU-**TIONS 607 (1988), 608 (1988), 636 (1989), and 611 (1989) and alarmed by the decision of the government of Israel to deport four Palestinians from the

travention of its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Con-1. Expresses its appreciation to the secretary-general for his

occupied territories in con-

report contained in document 2. Expresses its grave concern over the rejection by Israel of Security Council Resolutions 672 (1990) and 673

occupying power, to resume deportations of Palestinian civilians in the occupied terri-

4. Urges the government of Israel to accept de jure applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the said convention;

5. Calls on the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying power, for its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention in accordance with Article 1;

6. Requests the secretrarygeneral in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross to develop further the idea from the report of the secretary-general (S-21919) of convening a meeting of the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention and to discuss possible measures that might be taken by them under the

convention and for this pur-

idea could contribute to the goals of the convention as well as on other relevant matters and to report to the council; 7. Requests the secretary-

general to monitor and observe the situation regarding Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation, making new efforts in this regard on an urgent basis, and to utilise and designate or draw upon the United Nations and other personnel and resources present there in the area and elsewhere needed to accomplish this task and to keep the Security Council regularly in-

8. Requests further the secretary-general to submit a first progress report to the Security Council by the first week of March 1991, and every four months thereafter and decides to remain seized of the matter as necessary.

Here is the text of the nonbinding statement on the pros-

pects for a Middle East peace conference: The members of the Secur-

tive negotiating process in which all relevant parties should participate leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace to the Arab-Israeli conflict through negotiations which should be based on Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) of the Security Council and which should take into account the right to security of all states in the region, including Israel, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

In this context they agree that an international conference, at an appropriate time, properly structured, should facilitate efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

However, the members of the council are of the view that there is no unanimity as to when would be the appropriate time for such a conference.

In the view of the members of the council, the Arab-Israeli conflict is important and unique and must be addressed independently, on its own

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME ONE Programme review Children programme Educational programme News SummaryLocal series Programme review 29:00 News in Arabic 20:30 ,.... Arabic series 21:36 Programme review 21:59 Local programme 27:30 Arabic series 23:00 News in Arabic 23:19 Series continued PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Fruits de Passion 19:00 News in French Aujourd'Hui en France 29:98 News in Arabic 20:36 Good Morning Miss Bliss 21:00 Encounter 21:30 Feature film: "Children of A Lesser 22:96 News in English 22:28 Continuation of the film PRAYER TIMES

06:27 (Sunrise) Dubs

11:34 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Jeseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assunciation Tel. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Church of the Amandiation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel.

St. Ephraine Church Tel. 771751. Amenas International Church Tcl. Evangelical Letheran Church Tel: 811295. The Church of Jesus Christ of Letter-

Armenian Catholic Church Tci.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

Day Selects Tci. 815817, 654932 WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and relatively cold and winds will be northwesterly

moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas caim. Jordan Valley 12 / 23 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aquba 21. Humidity readings:

Amman 85 per cent, Agaba 45 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN: Dr. Joseph imsih. Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056 Dr. Munther Al Quraini 776258 Dr. Walid Sahawneh 779997 First pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 77831/6 Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Nairoukh phermacy 623672

Al Salant pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 64945

Dr. Ahmad Abu Baker (--) Al Sharaa' pharmacy (985238) ZARQA: Dr. Salah Safarini (--) Khalifeh pharmacy 985417 **EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Desence Immediate Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 62:111, 637777 Fire Brigade...... 891228 Blood Bank 775121 Flighway Police 843402 Traffic Police 896390 Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage Ammar Municipality Telephone Information

Central Amman Telephone

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Electric Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Oueen Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Ams..., 642441/2 Jabal Ammag Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Ammap Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 University Hospital Al-Mussher Hospital The Islamic, Abdali Al-Abli, Abdali 564164'6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3 Al-Basher, J. Ashrabeb 775111/26 Army, Marka 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital .. (09)991071 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Princess Basma Hospital .. (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 The Al Nafees Hospital..... (02)247100 AQABA Princess Hays Hospital (03)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT** This information is supplied by Royal

Jordanian (RJ) information depart-

ment at the Queen Alia International

Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it

FOR THE TRAVELLER

should siways be verified. ARRIVALS. Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

65045 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 18:80 Damescus (RJ) 10:15 Aqaba (RJ) 19:20 Dhahran (RJ)

19:30 New Delhi (RI) 10:30 Cairo (RJ) 10:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 10:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (R.I) 18:00: Montreal, New York (RJ) 19:18 Frankfort (RJ) 43:36 Madrid (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) 14:35 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

17:39 Dubai, Damascus (EK)

21:00 Paris, Damescus (AF)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 11:40 Tripoli (RJ) 12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ) 12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:45 Madrid (RJ) 13:00 Loudon (RJ) 13:15 Rome, Paris (RJ) 13:45 Geneva, Brussels (RJ) 21:10 Joddah (RJ) 21230 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 22-95 Cairo (RJ) 22:00 Doha (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

19:15 Beirst (ME)

14:48 Riyadh (SV)
23:18 Damascus, Paris (AF) **MARKET PRICES** Banana (Mukammar) 450 / 400 Beaus 400 / 350 Caboage Cauliflower 150 / 100 Dates _____ 500 / 400 Garlic 1400 / 1000 Lemon _____ 200 / 150 Marrow (large) 120 / 80 Marrow (small) 240 / 200 400 / 250 150 / 100

14:96 Bahrain (GF)

ins fire ALO, Arab trade unions

nended by Mage, sign cooperation agreement

iers from \$250 to AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary

h violation of the International representatives of by h day an in the Federation of Arab Trade Unh day an illegal, ions Hassan Hamam and Director General of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Baker Rassoul Friday signed an agreement of cooperation. Under the agreement both parties will exchange views and consult on issues of mutual concern, includ-

itta said.

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cal separation.

autonomy.

Palestinian on labour force. Palestinians we documentation on labour force. The agreement calls for cooperation in the fields of develop-Sitia said ing labour force, vocational Sitta said was training, and compilation of in the :- labour an migration statistics as the important well as in providing protection to O people for the labourers by enacting labour O people are legislations, ensuring such prout 65,000 Gaza tection and guaranteeing their

The two parties also agreed to working without exchange publications, information and document on labour ere is little de force and labour legislation and bred will find to avoid duplication of work and conflict of interests. : Sima said she

They also agreed to hold joint ers have tourses, conferences, symposia

the entranced: Holland sends medicine to Iraq

capital.

days after their se work permit AMMAN (R) — Trucks carsituation in a rying 16.5 tonnes of medicine, is only slightly including antibiotics and insulin, za. Palesuniat left Amman for Baghdad Thurs-Israel has the day, the Jordanian Red Crescent ared economic. Society said.

in both territor. A Red Crescent official said a pool of the the drugs, donated by the Dutch and create a case. Red Cross Society, were meant mostly for children.

gen acknowled. The U.N. Children's Fund last s to block the week sent a planeload of medichildren are dying because of lack of drugs and milk. The United Nations imposed sanctions after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

A UNICEF official Wednesday denied the reports of children dying but said Iraq would need more medicine soon to cope with a seasonal increase in

and meetings, to be attended by

representatives of both bodies.

Under the agreement, the two

The ALO Board of Directors

Thursday wound up its five-day

meetings in Amman and issued a

statement calling on all interna-

tional and regional organisations

act immediately with a view to

protecting the Palestinian people

The statement also condemned

the continuous attempts by the

United States to obstruct the

issuance of a resolution by the

U.N. Security Council calling for a

just solution to the Palestine prob-

The ALO board appealed to all

peace-loving nations to provide

number support and assistance to

the Palestinian people to enable it

restore its legitimate rights and

establish its own state on its

national soil with Jerusalem as its

cine to Iraq, which has said

parties shall consult on the tech-

nical aid programme carried out

by both parties.

under occupation.

Arabiyat promises help to farmers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Problems concerning the agricultural sector in the Jordan Valley region will be taken up by the Lower House of Parliament, and the demands and suggestions put forth by the local farmers will be taken into consideration, according to House Speaker concerned with human rights to Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

Speaking during a visit to the central Jordan Valley region, in Deir Allan, Arabiyat said that Parliament members would concern themselves with community problems, including agriculture, and would cooperate with the farmers in solving them.

These demands and suggestions, he said, will be referred to the House's Agricultural Committee for discussion and for following up matters with the concerned authorities.

Arabiyat was speaking at a meeting organised by the local Deir Alla Club during which various issues related to production and marketing of crops in Jordan and abroad were reviewed.

The visit followed a statement by Prime Minister Mudar Badran that the government was giving due attention to ensuring food security for the country and has allocated ID 9.809 million in the 1991 fiscal budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and its departments to help carry out the required development programmes in agriculture.

Replying to remarks by Parliament members at the House's



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

session Wednesday, which ended with the endorsement of the 1991 fiscal budget, Badran said that the government shared with the Parliament members their concern about the state of agriculture in Jordan, and had allocated an emergency fund of JD 500,000 to help solve part of the agricultural problems and to expand cereal production prog-

Furthermore, Badran told Parliament that the government was making arrangements for rescheduling farmers' debts in cooperation with the moneylending institutions.

During Arabiyat's visit to the Jordan Valley to discuss farming issues, he heard views of the local officials and heads of the farmers' association who outlined the farmers' problems concerning debts, water for irrigation, marketing of crops and animal feed.

e now hoped to ment. He added:
Palestinian bee

Development of misinterpreting federation's article

Trial of women federation members resumes today

By Serene Halasa Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Today seventeen members of the General Federation of Jordanian Women court session after being.

charged with assauking, and The article states: "The generused of killing for slandering public officials during e uned by a mise the federation's last general elecid. The Middle E tions held in August this year. During the elections, the 17 e no details of the women were part of a larger secution. Under group who had demonstrated outside the voting hall calling for

tie by death at inces are print the postponment of the elections aid Hassan cours on the grounds that they were it he acted 200 [Tlegal ed from Eggis The elections ended up in el. He shot all chaos when the temporary exne nifle. him ecutive committee, elected by

the Ministry of Social Development opted to go ahead with the nging passelections, ignoring the request of 150 women from the federation, who decided to boycott the vota saving it is temporary executive committee a Scoodmand headed by Butheina Jardaneh in Mashhad shad refused to allow the women ed of spine demonstrators to read out a who knew memorandum explaining the Fanian official women's position.

The elections went ahead as scheduled resulting in the landslide victory of the Islamist group (reform Bloc), headed by Toliceman Mandieh Zmeili, and the alleged The state of sour state on her that led to the ps repond forment trial of the 17 women. on kiloments According to the charge sheet, ed men and softhe women were accused of slaned men and capatifier, defamation, disturbing the 13d of the post seace, assaulting public officials

ized a submitted obstructing their work. The women denied the tharges and insisted that their iction was prompted by the unair interpretation of a conroversial article of the federaion by the Ministry of Social Development. The women "Ountered the ministry's interpretation by taking the case to the Higher Court of Justice

We wanted the higher court's we wanted the higher court's terpretation of the article beons," Toujan Feisal, one of the fendants, told the Jordan

waiting for another interpreta-

Cultural Centre.

Times. "We believe the ministry's interpretation of the article does not give all parties con-(GFIW) attended tipe second recemed equal rights of representation." she added.

> al conference is the general and central body of the federa ion. It is made up of representatives from different governorate committees, at an average of five women per governorate in addition to three members representing fifty members of the federation on an individual basis whether they belonged to the federation through societies, representative bodies, committees or as independent members."

The ministry's interpretation of article 12 gave the independents the right to send only three representatives to the general elections while denying this right to all other members who are affiliated with different committees, unions or societies of the federation. Sixty Islamist delegations participated in the general election of the executive committee, while the rest of the parties in the federation were not give the same share of representation," a defendant said.

This interpretation also banned 85 deputies from Irbid, who have no party affiliations, from participating, because, according to Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh: "They were late in paying their registration fees." Federation members in Irbid countered the charges saying that their deputies had paid their fees in 1989, giving them ample time since the registration period

ended in March 1990. The elections were also boycotted by 37 federations and resulted in the landslide victory of an Islamist Reform Bloc in the 17-member Executive Com-

mittee of the federation. "Our interpretation of article 12 came after we took the written approval of all parties in the women's federation," Shreideh said. He also stressed the fact

(opposing) group raised her that his ministry's interpretation did not abridge any party's rights hand in support of a candidate, of representation. "These women who boycotted the elections knew that their position

was weak, that is why they 17 women but that they wen pushed into it unknowingly Young Women Christian Asso-

> When confronted with the question of whether the "plaintiffs" were regarded as such, or were just "witnesses," the minister said that he regarded them as "witnesses," adding that because the suit was filed in the public interest, the report was taken by the police and used as evidence against them (the seventeen women).

> The case was adjourned to work," Feisal said.

Shevardnadze's resignation AMMAN (J.T.) - Prominent said that under Shevardnadze Jordanian figures and Parlia-Moscow had stopped concerning ment members have welcomed itself with the issues of the Third the exit of Soviet Foreign Minis-World and the oppressed nations or those facing world imperialist ter Eduard Shevardnadze from

Parliament members welcome

the political scene and expressed hope that his resignation would usher in a real change in Soviet policies.

"Of course Shevardnadze's resignation is to be considered an internal issue, but it also indicates that there has been strong opposition to the new trends of Soviet policies from within the Communist Party and the Armed Forces, and it reflects the presence of internal strife in the Soviet Union," said Fakhri Kawar, a member of the Lower House of Parliament.

Kawar expressed the view that the loreign minister's resignation would not bring about any real change in Soviet policies towards the Arab issues. He, however, aggression.

Another deputy, Issa Mdanat,

said that although the resignation was a Soviet domestic affair, "one can not forget that Shevardnadze played a suspect role in delaying a Security Council resolution on the protection of the Palestinians under Israeli rule and the convening of an international Middle East conference to solve the Palestine issue and implement U.N. resolutions." Mdanat said that the foreign minister's policies did a lot of damage to his country's image, especially because the Soviet Union had been considered as a friend of the Arab Nation over the past four de-

Bassam Haddadin, another deputy, considered Shevardnadze's resignation as a relief to the Arabs because "he was succumbing to the will of the United States and offering Washington one concession after another not only in East-West matters, but also at the Security Council

resolutions. Haddadin said that the outgoing foreign minister was leading his own country towards the precipice, and weakening Moscow's power worldwide." He expressed hope that the next foreign minister would not succumb to the United States' pressures and blackmail and will be more realistic in dealings with the Arab issues.

which issued several anti-Iraqi

According to Labib Kamhawi, member of the Royal Commission for preparing the national

charter, "Shevardnadze's resignation marks the beginning of the defeat of the course of policies followed the Soviet Union since 1985 and end to the damage caused to Moscow's image worldwide."

He said that under Shevardnadze, the Soviet Union displayed a weak stand with regard to the Pajestine question, the Soviet Jewish immigration and issues concerning the Third World, without gaining anything for the Soviet Union.

Mansour Murad, another Parliament member, said that Shevardnadze's policies represented a retreat from previous Soviet stands which are to be regarded as to have caused negative results. "Indeed Shevardnadze has caused a dangerous trend in Soviet foreign policies which it is hoped would be rectified by his successors," he said.

Committee on Jerusalem pledges to provide support for intifada, holy places

AMMAN (J.T.) — A general symposium on Jerusalem ended here Thursday with the announcement of the birth of the Popular Committee for the Defence of Jerusalem which will dedicate efforts towards spreading awareness about Jerusalem and conducting other activities related to the Holy City.

A statement issued at the end of the two-day meeting here said that the Holy City had been exposed to Zionist onslaughts and illegal practices aimed at changing the city's demographic,

historic and religious status. "The recent events and developments proved that the Israeli government is speeding

up measures to Judaise the city

ian and Muslim characters and beritage in violation of international principles and U.N. resolutions," the statement said.

and obliterate its Arab. Christ-

It said that in the absence of a strong Arab stand and lack of influence and pressure to be exercised to stop such Zionist moves, the political parties, popular organisations and unions as well as Jordanian personalities had decided to set up the Popular Committee for the Defence of Jerusalem.

It said that the committee would direct its attention to dealing with Zionist moves and Israeli escalation of repressive actions against the Palestinian

people as well as to the current attempts to construct the socalled Jewish temple and to desecrate the Islamic and Christian holy shrines.

The statement strongly criticised the United States for encouraging the Jewish state to pursue such atrocities and criminal actions against the Palestinians' holy places by providing the Israeli government with the economic and military aid and by condoning Israel's actions and protecting them at the United Nations Security Council.

The statement pledged that it would do all it can to provide. moral and material support for the intifada, to monitor Israel's

illegal actions and expose them and try to confront such actions which violate international laws.

The statement said that the committee would convene an international conference on Jerusalem in 1991 and would bold a symposium in Amman to pave the ground for the conference which will discuss Israel's practices and means of confronting them.

It said that Arab countries will be encouraged to invest in the occupied Arab lands to help the Arabs hold on to their land and will arrange for the restoration of the holy places and holy shrines which are being repeatedly desecrated.

Turkish opposition leader arrives, assails Ozal's policy on Gulf

By P. V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A Tarkish parliamentary delegation arrived here Friday on its way to Baghdad and let off a broadside salvo against the Ankara government's approach towards the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent stand-off in the region.

Erdal Inonu, leader of the main Turkish opposition party the Social Democratic Populist Party, known as SHP by its Turkish acronym, also accused President Turgut Ozal of exercising powers not actually assigned to him under the constitution.

"Turkey does not have any territorial claims on Iraq and Iraq does not have any territorial claims on Turkey, but the policy of our government has led charges that Turkey has ambitions in Iraqi territory," said

Inonu, who is accompanied by Erol Agagil, another SHP parliament member and senior party officials, told reporters upon his arrival here that he also questioned why the Turkish government found it necessary to 'seek NATO help ostensibly for its territorial defence.

"While we accept that it is NATO procedure to help every member country in its defence needs, we do not find any particular reason for this request to NATO," the elderly politician

said. Turkish Prime Minister Yildir-

Rainfall expected by Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Department of Meteorology expects rain to finally fall on Jordan by this coming Sunday as a result of the effects of low atmospheric depressions which will be affecting the Eastern Mediterranean

Department Director Ali Abanda, whose earlier predictions about rain in December did not materialise, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Saturday marks the beginning of the winter season in this area and subsequently the beginning of rainfalls.

He said that the high depression which had affected the Kingdom this month has now receded, and the low depressions are now heading towards Jordan from central Europe. The low depressions would bring rain, according to Abanda.

im Akbulut said Thursday his and once this is resolved we can covernment had asked NATO; of which his country is a memberg to deploy air defence forces to protect it in the event of a military conflict in the Gulf over Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion and

occupation of neighbouring inonu rejected as "nonsense" contentions by the government that Iraq could pose a secruity threat to Turkey. At the same time, he also justified the presence of over 100,000 Turkish

Iraq. Describing the Aug. 2 Iraqi. invasion of Kuwait as a violation of international law, Inonu said it was "only natural" that Turkey had increased its military presence on the border.

troops along the border with

The elderly Turkish politician said his party was seeking a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis through dialogue and negotiations. "It is the responsibility of

everyone to seek to resovle the Gulf crisis through peaceful means and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should take the lead." he said calling for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. "The Gulf crisis is there now,

go on to other problems of the Middle East," he said in reference to Iraq's insistence that any solution to its occupation of Kuwait should be linked to resolving the Palestinian problem.

The Turkish delegation is scheduled to hold talks with King Hussein before proceeding to Baghdad Saturday. According to Inonu, while

"the Arabs are primarily responsible for resolving the Gulf crisis, the fact that international law is violated makes it an international problem." He was answering a question whether he thought an Arab solution was possible in the Gulf conflict. Inonu, described his country

as a friend "of the Arabs, of Jordan, of Irag," and noted that his party "was among the first in the world to recognise the state of Palestine," when it was proclaimed by the Palestine National Council in November 1988. Inonu criticised Ozal for what

he said was the president's exercising of powers which are not granted constitutionally. "Ozal is trying to change the constitution to a presidential constitution but it appears that he is already exercising the rights of a

presidential constitution," he

The politician was underlining to widespread suggestions that Turkey's approach to the Gulf crisis has been solely steered by Ozal. Several senior politicians have also voiced the same opinion, and military officials say that Ozal may be propelling Turkey into a military conflict in the Gulf against the wishes of the Turkish defence establishment. They cite the resignation in October of Ozal's foreign minister and that of the Turkish chief of staff earlier this month in obvious protests against the gov-

ernment's Gulf policy. Turkey was among the first countries to fall in line with the American-engineered United Nations Security Council resolution calling for sanctions against Iraq. It closed two pipelines carrying Iraqi oil to Turkey's Mediterranean ports for export and also imposed tight controls against shipments of goods across the border.

The Turkish delegation was received upon arrival by Lower House of Parliament members Fawzi Tuaimeh and Issa Mdanat and senior Foreign Ministry official Khaled Othman.





MR. JOHN GARUFI, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS I.E.C. LTD, MONTREAL, CANADA, WILL BE STAYING AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL. AMMAN.

THURSDAY, DEC. 20-SATURDAY DEC. 22.

INTERESTED PARTIES ARE KINDLY INVITED TO CONTACT HIM

السيد جون جاروفي

سيكون في إستقبالكم بفندق ماريوت عمان من تاريخ (۲۰ ـ ۲۲) كانون أول ۱۹۹۰

الرجاء من المهتمين الأتصال معه على تلقون فندق ماريوت (١٠٠)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition entitled 'L'orient des cafes' at the French Cultural Art exhibition by Mukarram Haghondoqu at the Spanish

FILM

- Fritz Long film festival: "Rache for Jesse James" at the Goethe Institute - 8:06 p.m.

committee (party made up of representatives from the Ministry of Social Development), Shreideh said: Their time was up, and they did not want to hold the elections, that is why I had to dissolve the committee."

wanted to postpone the elec-

Asked why the current execu-

tive committee was dissolved

and replaced by a temporary

tions." Shreideh said.

"We (former executive committee) were given an extention by the ministry in order to prepare for the elections, but under these new circumstances the extention was overturned." another defendant told the Jordan Times. During Monday's hearings.

Judge Mohammad Faoury listened to the defendant's testimopies. They all reiterated the fact that they had wanted the elections to give fair and equal representation to all parties and not to favour any particular party. "We were waiting for the higher court's decision on the interpretation of article 12 of the federation," one defendant said. "These were not true elections, because many of us did not

cess," she added. Another one complained about the way the elections were held. "we did not even know the name of the candidates, and the' process involved a show of hands instead of casting secret ballots and when the leader of the

participate and because a certain

group controlled the whole pro-

ber supporters followed suit obligingly," another defendant Another controversy emerged

during the hearing when four "plaintiffs" insisted that they did not file the law suit against the "We were required to sign our names on a report that described what happened during the elections. We thought that this report was going to be kept in the Social Development Ministry's file. Apparently it was not and our signatures were used in a manner that made us look as if we were the plaintiffs," Salwa Shweihat, president of the

ciation (YWCA) said.

Dec. 22 because of the absence of some defendants and "witnesses." If the women are found guilty they face imprisonment. "This case has no precedent in Jordan, because usually in cases involving, women, especially criminal cases, the whole thing is solved using tribal laws. This case, though, aims at putting women under pressure, in order to pull them out from public

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahraini leader thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein received Thursday a cable from the Bahraini leader Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa in reply to His Majesty's congratulatory cable on the occasion of Bahrain's national day. In his cable the Bahraini leader thanked His Majesty for the brotherly feelings expressed and wished His Majesty and the people of Jordan all the best.

Envoy to the Netherlands presents credentials

THE HAGUE (Petra) --- Jordan's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Netherlands Talal Sataan Al Hassan presented his credentials to Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Hassan conveyed to Queen Beatrix the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein. The King wished Queen Beatrix good health and happiness and the Dutch people further progress and prosperity. Hassan briefed the Queen on Jordan's stands on the various issues and King Hussein's efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. He also explained to her the economic effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan. Queen Beatrix asked Hassan to convey her greetings and best wishes to King Hussein and the Jordanian people.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

...... جودين تاييز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانطيزية عن المؤسسة المسطية الإردنية

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When time is right?

AT LONG last the U.N. Security Council has arrived at a compromise formula on the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestine that seemed to have won the support of all the members of the council. The sticking point that had prevented the permanent and non-permanent members from agreeing on a resolution for over two months was whether or not to refer to the international peace conference's idea on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The U.S. position prevailed and the principle of holding a peace conference was relegated to a mere statement by the council's president, Yemeni Ambassador Abdullah Saleh Ashtal, that the convening of such a conference would come at an appropriate time in the future. Washington purposely kept the peace parley's formula from the preambular and operative paragraphs of Resolution 681 for fear that its inclusion in the text would offer a reward to Iraq. Baghdad has been insisting on establishing a link between the Gulf crisis and other Middle East issues, but found no support from even some Arab countries. To drive home more effectively the negative link between the two situations, the U.S. tried to have the president of the council also state that the Arab-Israeli conflict constitutes a separate issue that needs to be addressed independently.

The question that comes to the fore here is why the council took so long to agree on such a watered-down draft. When the U.S. succeeds in not only down-grading the Middle East conflicts but also makes the president of the council mumble a few vague words on them, one wonders whether the entire exercise was worth the two-month effort put into it. To merely state after such prolonged negotiations and informal consultations among the council's members that an international conference "properly structured" could be convened at "an appropriate time" in the future is an open-ended formula that adds nothing and takes nothing away. In the final analysis of the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially the Palestinian problem, it would not depend on the kind of language being used by the council members at the end of their debates on them. The Arab side is not interested in semantic or formal links between the Middle East conflicts and those belonging to other parts of the world be they in South-East Asia or Latin America. In principle the Arab World has no quarrel with the proposition that its region's problems should be solved on their own merits. The crux of the matter lies in the fact that these questions need to be effectively addressed on the basis of the relevant U.N. resolutions adopted on them. And the heart of the matter is the proposition that the charter of the U.N. and its principled resolutions are inseparable. After 23 years of waiting the Arab side is entitled to know when this "appropriate time" for convening a conference on the Palestinian problem is going to occur. And what is even more important than holding such a conference is to provide the necessary political will on the part of the permanent members of the council, especially the U.S., to apply faithfully and effectively the council's own resolutions on the occupied Arab territories. There was a time when the Arab side recognised that without attaining a strategic balance between the Arabs and Israel there was no way they could negotiate equally with the Jewish state in any given forum be it the international conference or otherwise. With so many Western and Arab countries now threatening Iraq's military might, one wonders if the "appropriate time" for holding the parley in the minds of such powers would be when Iraq is destroyed and the cumulative Arab strength is sapped completely. Then, there would be no need for an international conference to mark the demise of the Arab bargaining position.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily expressed the view that those who obstruct the implementation of international legitimacy with regard to the Palestine question have no right to brag about the international legitimacy with regard to the Gulf crisis. The paper, referring to Washington's obstruction of a U.N. Security Council resolution which calls for protection to the Palestinians against Israeli atrocities, said that it is Washington's encouragement to the Zionist leaders that is casuing further oppression and further sufferings for the Palestinians whose lands are occupied by Israel. The paper said that the United States is pressuring the Security Council not to take any action vis-a-vis Israel, and not to impose any form of sanctions on the Jewish state for its illegal practices in the occupied Arab lands, at a time when it brags about the importance of applying international legitimacy in the Gulf crisis. Washington's encouragement to the Jewish state, said the paper, was manifested clearly by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Sahmir who announced that his government will pursue the policy of deportation in open and flagrant defiance of the international community and U.N principles and norms. The United States which continues to impede the work of the Security Council, is not only showing collusion with the Zionists against the Palestinians, but is taking active part in the perpetuating repression in Palestine, said the paper. Shamir had said that during his visit to Washington, President Bush promised never to give any concessions to Iraq at the expense of Israel, the paper recalled. It said that by giving such promise. Bush has declared his total refusal to deal with the Palestine question, and by pursuing his policies with regard to the Gulf issue, the president is aiming to launch aggression on Iraq to destroy an Arab power that could be used against Israel, thus providing support and protection for the Israeli aggressors rather than the oppressed Palestinians.

Al Dustour daily described a visit to the Gulf and the foreign forces deployed there by the U.S. defence secretary and the head of the joint chiefs of staff of the American forces as part of America's escalation of tension and a form of threat directed to View from Amman

A case for dialogue

IT goes without saying that the call for an Arab-Arab dialogue issued by His Majesty King Hussein emanates from his rational and ethical approach to the problems of the area. Even before the crisis commenced on Aug. 2, King Hussein had been attempting to contain it within the Arab fold. Several reasons account for this insistence on an Arab solution. First, because it will be an expression of the will of the direct partners to the conflict. Second, because it gives credibility to the idea that the Arabs can, on occasion, solve their own problems without being static or falling for interference from the outside. And third, because any other solution, imposed or manipulated from outside, will constitute a bone of contention between the now belligerent parties: A bone of contention that will certainly give rise to further strife and conflict.

Yet, while saying all this, we must remember a few facts about the present Arab situation. Never in recorded memory have the Arabs been more discordant and divided than they appear at this moment. It is a fact that some Arab parties, for their own reasons. are advocating the use of force against Iraq. These; in the heat of the present crisis and its poisoned atmosphere seem to have forgotten the fact that after the dust is settled and the battle is ended, they will have to live with themselves, not to mention the need to live with their Iraqi brothers and neighbours.

And while some of the Arab parties seem to have lost control over their own destiny; having others decide for them, or do their fighting, they ought to be reminded that their present day friends have been the cause of most, if not, all the area's problems, beginning with the Palestinian and the Lebanese problems and ending with all border disputes in the region.

How can a meaningful dialogue be conducted when the international atmosphere, as well as the Arab atmosphere is so tense, so unbalanced, so poisoned? Has any meaningful dialogue ever taken place in the shadow of such threats and at the tip of a bayonet? When has the international community ever conducted a dialogue with such a time table and under such a definite time

President Bush has already explained what he means by the meetings he called for between himself and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz and between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and President Saddam Hussein. President Bush emphasised that these meetings are for nothing more than to tell the Iraqi leadership face to face to "get out of Kuwait" or else! "I am not in a negotiating mood." (Time, 17/12/90, P. 13) he said. If that is the message, then it is not a dialogue in the first place, and in the second place, the Iraqis have already received it. So why should they be in a hurry to get the threatening meetings over with?

So it comes to pass that neither on the international level, nor on the Arab level, is the mood for negotiations, not to mention a meaningful dialogue, present.

Should much Iraqi blood spill and Iraqi power be pulverised those responsible will eventually be made accountable by their own people. We are in agreement that Iraq must pull out of Kuwait and a legitimate government be installed in that country. We are not in agreement that the only way to achieve this goal is through the use of force. Time tends to heal all wounds; and time will certainly cause the Iraqi leadership to come to terms with its Kuwaiti brothers; time and not the present heightened tensions.

Further, it took the Americans decades to get the Chinese, the Vietnamese, the North Koreans, even the Russians to come to terms with the present international order of things. What's the hurry, or rather, why the rush in the case of Iraq? For what cause is the use of force contemplated?

By Kamel Abu Jaber

The United States must remember that in spite of all the acrimony, vicissitudes and difficult relations it has had with individual Arab states or with the Arabs collectively, no war, no mass spilling of blood has ever occurred between them. Should Iraq be attacked such a deed would tend to undermine the very regimes that the United States is ostensibly now protecting. The United States should also remember that the reduction of Iraqi power will create a vacuum; A vacuum that will ultimately create further havoc and instability in the area. Already we are made aware that Israel, Turkey and Iran have their own scenarios as to how to deal with the new situation.

It is in view of these facts and others that any contemplation of the use of force must be abandoned. Given some time and some relaxation in the level of the present tension, the Arab-Arab dialogue may develop into a meaningful avenue through which solutions can be hammered out. King Hussein's efforts to promote the idea should receive support. Jordan's perception of the present Gulf crisis, as indeed all other crises in the area must be solved with an eye to the future. A future whereby the present-day enemies will have, ultimately, to live with each other. That in addition to our realisation that we stand to become an arena for battling armies, as well as our belief that violence does not solve, but complicates matters stands behind our promotion of dialogue: Arab-Arab and Iraqi-American.

U.S. forces, Saudi Arabia and the Christmas spirit

By Richard Walker

WITH U.S. FORCES IN THE GULF - Western forces in the Gulf are taking special precautions for Christmas to keep celebration of next week's Christian holy day from offending their Muslim hosts.

Regular Christian and Jewish worship is being openly conducted by military chaplains or lay leaders for U.S. and allied Western forces operating in international waters off the Red Sea and the Gulf and in nearby emirates.

But in Saudi Arabia, spiritual heartland for Muslims the world over, such worship is being kept out of sight to avoid upsetting local citizens or authorities in the devout Muslim

"Religion has been a problem since the first day," said a senior U.S. military official. who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

"We've always had religious services in Saudi Arabia, but the government let us know that, 'if you flaunt it, we've got to do something about it.' We'll continue, but we won't publicize it." he added.

Soldiers and chaplains have been warned not to display crosses, stars of David or other religious symbols openly in public or around Saudi soldiers or civilians.

Chaplains are also typically listed as "Morale" officers on public notices, using code



words to advise troops of religious services.

Christmas, second holiest day on the Western Christian calendar, poses a special challenge because of its role also as a special family holiday even in ance is low, chaplains and officers told Reuters.

Secular trappings of Christmas among allied soldiers in Saudi Arabia are far more open than any religious signs. Christmas presents addressed to "any serviceman" have poured in from the United

States, said 1st Lieutenant Steve Turner, an air force. spokesman.

Christmas trees have

sprouted in numerous military sites, greeting cards depicting a camel in a Santa Claus costume have been exchanged and some units have made mock desert "snowmen" by piling sandbags on top of each other. But preparations are also being made so soldiers can mark the religious feast celeb-

rating the birth of Jesus Christ

just as Jews have had their

eight-day observance of Hanu-

kah that recalls their ancestors' fight for religious freedom in the ancient world.

On board the uss John F. Kennedy with its 5,000-plus crew, Chief Chaplain Captain James O'connor said attendance at Catholic, Protestant and other services has steadily risen since the aircraft carrier was deployed for the Guif crisis and even sparked formation of a small Muslim congrega-

"For Christmas, we're trying not to overdo it because that would only deepen the pain for the men who have to be away...

Christmas Eve candlelight serguitarists," O'Connor added.

from home," he said.

"I use the word low-key, but we will celebrate these holy day appropriately with a vice for Protestants and a midnight mass for Catholics. We'll sing Christmas carols on the mess decks and have roaming The British Broadcasting Corporation plans a Christmas Eve television programme using satellites to link British and

other allied soldiers in Bahrain

to families in Germany and

Iraq's secularist Muslim ruler has already invoked the mantle of Islam for himself. He

has called for "holy war" to keep Western troops from "desecrating" the Muslim boly sites of Mecca and Medina in Western Saudi Arabia of which King Fahd is the special "custodian". "It's a very sensitive subject," conceded U.S. Army

England with a sermon by

Archbishop of Canterbury

tion remains vital on Saudi

soil. There is more at stake

than the danger of Western

soldiers running foul of cus-

toms in the Kingdom where

Islam is the only legal religion

and laws are based on the

The wider peril, authorities

said, is that any religious con-

troversy could quickly become

a propaganda weapon for

Iraq's Saddam Hussein, whose

invasion of Kuwait is regularly

denounced by Saudis and other

Gulf states as tarnishing the

imgae of Islam.

But the military says discre-

Robert Rancie.

Koran.

Colonel William Mulvey, chief spokesman for the allies' joint information bureau in Dhahran which has kept journalists from covering worship by military units in Sandi Arabia.

"Our concern is that Iraq not be able to use the religious freedom that's being permitted here against the host country. We don't want to lose that the freedom."

The different elements of peace

By Dr. Saleh Ersheidat

IT IS HARD to imagine that war will break out in the Gulf despite the huge military buildup in the region on both sides of the fence and despite the numerous anti-Iraqi resolutions passed by the U.N. Security Council in the past months. Most of the political analysts and strategists have ruled out the option of war since the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, simply because of the high cost of such a war and its direct and indirect consequences on the world at large. But it has to be pointed out that any peaceful option can by no means achieve for the United States any of its strategic targets in the Gulf region including the destruction of Iraq's military power and political leadership. Therefore, any moves towards settling the Gulf issue within the no-war-no-peace concept and within the negotiations as proposed by Iraq and accepted by the United States recently, would have to hinge on two choices or

First: The United States will consider Iraq and its military. economic and political power as a new partner in the international equilibrium, which means that Iraq will be given due recognition in Middle Eastern affairs directly related to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the one hand and the future of oil wealth on the other.

Second: Stalling a solution for the present Gulf crisis and trying to divide it into a number of smaller issues with the purpose of defusing the tension and gaining time to allow for re-organising matters and preparing for a new round of dealings with Iraq aimed at destroying that country economically and militarily, to ensure America's total domination over the oil fields within the context of a new American policy in the region depending on

alliances with local governments. If we are to discuss the two options from an objective point of view and in the light of the present world realities, we will find that in the first above mentioned option, namely "Western recognition of Iraq as a major regional power to be reckoned with" would have been more likely had the events in the Gulf occurred a long time earlier. This is because the world's strategic balance has now been heavily tipped in favour of the United States following Moscow's exit at the end of the cold war; and in the light of America's obvious influence and polarisation moves in Europe and Asia as best witnessed in the Gulf crisis. The division within the Arab World into a group supporting and the other opposing Iraq has lessened the influence of the Iraqi alliance. It should be noted that the Jewish state and its future in the region are behind all the difficulties impeding strategic balance between the two sides, simply because of Israel's strategic importance to America and its allies in the West.

What we conclude from this debate is that it is rather difficult for us to see a scenario in which America recognises Iraq as a strategic power to be reckened with in international conflicts. The second option which is more likely to be accepted and to materialise in the coming stage is namely breaking up the crisis into smaller issues. This can take the form of opening negotiations in a bid to try to interpret U.N. Security Council resolutions, with

each side trying to make it more palatable to its own taste, and trying also to gain more time. I believe that the breaking up of the crisis into separate matters is convenient to many parties including those serving under the American umbrella like France and Japan which tried to adopt independent stands with regard to the Gulf crisis for their own reasons. These nations realise that any war in the Gulf means the devastation of the oil installations which feed their industrial power. They also realise that war in the Gulf could bring about strategic changes in the region, depriving many countries of certain privileges bearing in mind that regional powers like Iran would exploit the conflict to fill the vacuum that might result from a war and lay its hands on the oil fields. I believe that the second option of breaking up the crisis into smaller issues is suitable to many parties of the region involved in the crisis, because each side would consider that such option would serve its own strategies and objectives.

For example Iraq, whose leaders realise the dangers in fragmenting the issue, believes that negotiations with the Americans is a formal recognition of Iraq's power, and that such negotiation would necessarily take place from an Iraqi position of strength. This would be interpreted by Iraq to mean a political and military victory. Such state of affairs would no doubt enhance Iraq's position in the Arab World and in the international arena. Indeed Iraq would through this option, look as the party which succeeded in not only defusing tension but also in attaining its rights. The result would be a reshuffling of the political set up in the oil rich Arabian Gulf region, with the idea of distributing the Arab oil wealth to various Arab development schemes becoming more acceptable to all Arabs.

Needless to say that through negotiations with America, the Iraqis would certainly insist on linking the Palestine issue with the Gulf crisis because they consider the Palestine question as the source of all tension, in the region. Should this happen, Iraq would gain considerable support from other Arab countries. On the other hand, the United States, the undisputed leader of the new world, through accepting the option of breaking up the Gulf crisis into smaller issues, would try to achieve its own strategies and objectives. The United States would try for instance to reduce Iraq's military power and weaken its political leadership through a long-term strategy which it believes would ensure its own goals. Washington could resort to maintaining an economic and technological embargo on Iraq, depriving it of the chance of acquiring spare parts and other necessities, now that Baghdad is not relying on Moscow which has aligned itself with America. The United States might also resort to creating border problems for Iraq to cause trouble with its neighbours.

The second option would indeed offer America numerous economic and strategic privileges. We should remember that negotiations normally take a very long time and can offer a legitimate cover for the United States forces to remain in the Gulf for as long as possible. The United States might in that case ask the Gulf states to seek permanent American bases to be

established along the whole Gulf coast to boost their military balance vis-a-vis Iraq. The presence of American forces in the Gulf states is bound to end up imposing a political and economic American influence, forcing these Arab states to switch to American products, American technology and American services etc... Perhaps Britain is seeking a war in the Gulf to prevent that from happening and to ensure a lasting British influence in that

But due to expected rivalry between the United States and Europe there might be some basic changes in the region. One can easily perceive France's new stand in the world which was best manifested during the Gulf crisis when Paris tried to free itself of American hegemony. This stand is being taken by France in view of its vast economic interests in Iraq and the Gulf, and because now that the Soviet Union is out of the international struggle for superpower supremacy, France is aware that European unity is bound to come in 1992 and perhaps it is interested in seeing itself as a leader of the united Europe, playing a key role in world's

On the other hand there is the role of the Jewish state which have proved to be serving as a frontline base for aggression, and as the policeman of the region. Israel for its part will of course be disturbed by any political option because it believes that the Iraqi military power is bound to be boosted in a climate of peace and later would form a direct threat to Israel's expansionist objectives. Despite Israel's close alliance with the United States the Jewish state tries by all possible means to circumvent America's policies by launching acts of aggression on Iraq now and then with a view to weakening its military and economic power. Israel's real fear is to see Iraq creating a major Arab front capable of imposing the options of peace or war on the Jewish state, or at least to force the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning

What remains is the position of the Arab states which had been betting on a military solution and Iraq's loss. Now that America has accepted the idea of negotiating with Iraq, these Arab states which have aligned themselves behind Washington would find themselves unable to explain their own position and would leave matters for history and the turn out of events to decide their government's positions.

Iraq and its allies are now called on to stand together to utilise the present success in a manner that would offer the best service to various Arab causes, especially the Palestine question. The Palestinians realise that Iraq's military might and steadfastness. and its strong bargaining position is a golden opportunity for the Palestine issue that might not present itself once again. What is required from the "steadfastness front" now is to plug all the loopholes through which the enemies of the Arab Nation might get through, especially Israel which is lying in wait for the Arabs. The Iraqi front should about the enemy's plots aimed at depriving the Arab Nation of achieving part of its aspirations.

Camel Abn,

CEMBER 22.

s to get the China te Russians to ce of things. Whe of Iraq? For where ations it has be between the between then : to undermine the oly now program I the reducion, ist will ultimus. - Already we at. heir own scenary iat any contempt

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i its aspirations

Prince

(Continued from page 1) attacked, the Crown Prince said. "I think it is important, but at the same time it is not yet formalised by the Security Council. You see on the one side, you have Baker saying 'I would be representing the Security Council and U.N. resolutions in visiting Baghdad," and President Bush saying that he would have to take action to implement Security Council resolutions, and yet at the same time that action is clearly directed at Iraq's owning chemical weapons and bacteriological weapons. Any attempt to dispel that by saying Iraq, for example, has opened its facilities to international inspection are dispelled. So the momentum is clearly there on the ground. Then the old dictum when armies move wars happen' is clearly what we are living

today." In reply to a question on former British Prime Minister Edward Heath's testimony in the U.S. Congress that renewed the prospect of an Arab solution.

the Crown Prince said: "The Algerians are still willing to contribute. We are willing to contribute and others in the region are certainly are willing to contribute to an Arab discussion as stipulated by paragraph 3 of Resolution 660. And the full implementation of that resolution calls for unconditional withdrawal and direct discussion between Iraq and Kuwait. However the U.S. today does appear to be extremely uncomfortable about any Arab discussion, any compromise which might unsettle or disturb the coalition. So I think if the intellectual generosity existed to go the last mile. then it should include a support for this inter-Arab discussion."

of 242. ited States had succeeded in its in reply to another question, efforts to exclude any significant the Crown Prince said: reference to the idea of linkage "A month ago some suggested between Israel's occupation of was exaggerating the cost of Arab territories and the Gulf war when I was talking to doccrisis. tors who proceeded to Baghdad. Doctors Against Nuclear War. tical analyst, said there were And when we learn that this positive points in the resolution military buildup is costing but it was inadequate. \$30,000 a second, one hour (of) "Although it is vague and weak which will cover our helath costs it is a step in the right direction," today, when we learn that effeche added. tively conventional health sertypical reactions from various Arab countries in line with their respective positions towards the Gulf crisis.

vices will not be able to cope even with a conventional war, when we envisage over a million evacuees at minimum coming in from Iraq, Jordan is already reeling with the loss of the equivalent of 110 per cent of its GDP and a million people under the poverty line. I have every reason to be sombre. I am hosting a roundtable in the beginning of January just to serve notice on so many friends in the international community. I do not want to wait until television show the misery. I want to point out what the possibilities are of the

the Foreign Relations Commit-

tee of the Lower House of Par-

liament, echoed Izzeddin's

assessment and described the

resolution as a "step forward."

Although Resolution 681 "does

not completely satisfy the basic

elements demanded in the light

of the situation in the West

Bank, it does contain some posi-

tive elements that must be

noted," Masri, a former foreign

minister, said in a statement

carried by the Jordan News

Masri pointed to the reference

in the resolution to the occupied

Agency, Petra.

tragedy that is unfolding." Israel assailed the United States for adopting what it de-Resolution scribed as a weak position in the face of pressure in the Security (Continued from page 1) Comail.

Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, Butros Ghali, welcomed the resolution as a "positive step towards peace." He said it would "bolster the position of the Palestinian people's demand for their legitimate national rights."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said the Security Council vote "is an important step on the right path."

"The availing of protection to Palestinians under Israeli occupation and the independent communique on the convening of an international peace confer-

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territories and Jerusalem, the cace in the suitable time with the resolution's support for holding approval of the U.S. is the first a meeting of the signatories to positive development in the the Geneva Convention and its American stand towards the call on the U.N. secretary gener-Arab-Israeli conflict," Sharaa al to send international obser-

vers to the occupied territories.

supposed to pave the way for a

clear U.N. presence in the occu-

pied territories to protect the

He said any assessment of the

resolution and the accompany-

ing statement should take into

consideration two elements -

the need to link an international

peace conference and the Pales-

tine question to the Gulf crisis

and the "American hegemony in

the Security Council and its clear

influence on the formulation of

Security Council resolutions in

light of the weak position of

other international powers,

Former Prime Minister

Ahmad Obeidat said that in light

of the present situation in the

Middle East the "resolution will

not have any impact on moving

the wheels of peace in the region

and finding a peaceful, just and

permanent resolution to the

General Commission for the

National Charter, said in a state-

ment to Petra that Resolution

681 does not refer to past resolu-

tions "concerned with the Arab-

Israeli conflict — 242 and 338 —

and this omission is sufficient

reason to say that we cannot

positive dimension or a clear

direction towards moving the

wheels of peace in the region."

Resolution 242 calls for Israeli

withdrawal from the territories it

occupied in the 1967 war and 338

calls for negotiations on the basis

Obeidat asserted that the Un-

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, a poli-

The U.N. resolution drew

While Egypt and Syria, the

two major Arab states in the

anti-traq coalition forged by the

U.S., welcomed the resolution,

Iraq itself described it as weak.

Organisation (PLO) adopted a

cautious approach to the resolu-

tion, expressing hope that more

would be done to realise the

Arab call for an international

peace conference on the Middle

The Palestine Liberation

consider this new resolution as a

Obcidat, chairman of the

Arab-Israeli conflict."

especially the Soviet Union."

civilian population,"

The resolution, Masri said, "is

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq AZZ accused the council's members of falling under the influence of Israel's guardian, the United States, by failing to include in the resolution a binding call for an international peace

conference. A PLO official said there should be an end to U.S. attempts to obstruct an international conference on the Middle

Yasser Abed Rabbo, the chief PLO spokesman, urged "parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict to start consultations to prevent any attempt by Washington to obstruct the convening of the international conference."

Abed Rabbo said the PLO expects "quick steps to hold a meeting by the high contracting parties to observe the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and to act quickly to send envoys to the occupied territories.

"International observers should ... intervene to put an end to Israel's repressive measures and to stop the Israeli terrorism it exercises on our people," added Abed Rabbo.

Palestinian nationalists said the resolution fell short of their bopes. Many said they were disappointed that after nearly two months of bargaining, the Security Council did not even agree on means to protect Palestinians.

"We have sought the dispatch of a U.N. force or at least observers to stop Israel from killing Palestinians," said Riyad Al Malki, a Palestinian academic and a noted figure.

"But even the compromise proposal of sending an ombudsman was dropped in favour of a vague statement," he said. "It would have been better to

have the United States veto the resolution and expose its double standard than to adopt such a watered down resolution," he added. Malki and other Palestinians

said they did not anticipate any changes in Israel's treatment of Palestinians as a result of the resolution. This resolution is a repetition of previous ones. It will not

change anything," said Dr. Zakariya Al Agha, head of the Arab Medical Society in the Gaza Strip. Israeli Foreign Minister David

Levy denounced the United States for backing the resolu-He said the Jewish state's

guardian ally had been weakened and obsessed by its alliance with Arab and Muslim forces against Iraq. 'There is American weakness. That weakness stems from the dependence of America on

that coalition which is siding

with it today against Saddam Hussein," Levy told Israeli army "The American obsession is that if it would be objective and side with Israel the coalition could start falling apart. We think otherwise, because those Arab states need America more

Levy said Israel would not agree to the U.N. monitor plan. "Without our agreement it means nothing... if something new is set up without Israel's agreement it has no status, Israel will certainly not agree," he

than America needs them," he

The resolution came as an

Israeli army judicial panel considered appeals by four Palestinians against their expulsions from the occupied Gaza Strip.

Lawyers said no decision was reached and discussions would resume Sunday.

"I don't suspect that we will succeed in preventing the expulsions," said Farayeh Abu Meddin, one of the lawyers representing the four. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir told Israel Television that Israel has never expected "praise and comfort" from the United Nations, The resolution "joins to the

string of negative decisions which rest peacefully in the archives of the United Nations without anyone touching them," Shamir said. Aziz told the Iraqi News Agency that the resolution "unc-

overed the regrettable condition of the Security Council which has turned into an institution engineered by the U.S. administration according to its strategy and imperialist greeds." He added that the resolution 'highlighted the double stan-

dards applied by the United States and imposed on the Security Council, which has turned into a tool manipulated by the United States." President George Bush's poli-

cy, Aziz said, is designed to protect only "Bosh's partners and his agents among the corrupt oil sheikhs for whom he sheds crocodile tears."

Hopes

(Continued from page 1) position, and particularly Shevardnadze's own role, has become more dramatic following the eruption of the Gulf crisis. The Arabs realised they could no longer depend on the automatic support of the Soviet Union when Moscow lent its full fledged backing to the American-led military build-up in the Gulf.

More alarmingly still, the Soviet Union has stopped considering the Western military build-up in a strategic region such as the Gulf a threat to its security. It has become willing — to the disappointment of its Arab friends — to play a backup role to this build-up.

Through developing close working relations with Western leaders and outspoken hardline statements on the Gulf. Shevardnadze emerged as the representative and the symbol of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. From the viewpoint of Arab

officials and analysts, the most disappointing aspect of Shevardnadze's policies was that he seemed to be deliberately closely

associating Soviet foreign policies to that of the U.S. Some even charge that Shevardnadze put Soviet policy in the service of American diplomacy.

"The Soviet agenda was confused with the American agenda." said another senior Jordanian official.

Most recently, Shevardnadze's role in pressing for the postponement of a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an international peace conference is particularly viewed as a strong indication of his insistence on associating Soviet policies with American diploma-

"Shevardnadze saved the U.S. from the embarrassment of vetoeing the resolution and consequently threatening to undermine the international alliance against Iraq," said one analyst, The eight postponements of

the resolution — with Soviet help have eventually led to a compromise involving the omission of any reference to the international conference in the resolution and the inclusion of the call for such a meeting in a separate non-binding declaration by the president of the Security Council.

But regardless of the controversial role played by Shevardnadze, the two relevant questions are: to what extent his policies represented a new solid trend in Soviet policies and will his resignation — if accepted lead to any change in Soviet diplomacy?

Over the last four months since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, there have been confliciting signs over the direction of Soviet diplomacy, analysts point out. For while the shift has not been confined to Shevardnadze's attitudes, there were instances when the Soviet Georgian appeared to contradict other Soviet officials, including President Mikhail Gorbachev him-

For example most of Shevardnadze's statements were more forthcoming towards military action in the Gulf than those made by Gorbachev or the Soviet government.

Some specialists even detected the emergence of two trends in the Soviet foreign policy in the Middle East. The first, led by Shevardnadze, did not oppose Soviet military involvement in the Gulf and to a full restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel. The second, promoted by Yevgeny Primakov, a specialist on the Middle East who advocated a compromise in the Gulf crisis, opposed the destruction of Iraqi military might and pressed for a settlement of the Palesti-

nian question.

Primakov's trend appeared to be making a strong presence when he made his first mediation trip to Baghdad two months ago

as Gorbachev's special envoy. But Primakov, according to senior Arab officials, was less forthcoming on a compromise on his second trip. This gave way to speculation that Shevardnadze's policy had prevailed or that Primakov himself had a change of mind.

"He was simply conveying the American position," an Iraqi official told the Jordan Times following the second visit.

Palestine Liberation Organistion (PLO) officials believe that Primakov will pursue a different policy in the region if he succeeded Shevardnadze, "He understands the region and is concerned about the future of Soviet relations with the Arab World," said a PLO official who knows Primakov.

But some analysts argue that against the backdrop of a serious internal power struggle, economic difficulties and the potentially explosive ethnic and national strife in the Soviet Union, Moscow remains in a weak position even to consider countering the American influence. Moreover, the state of disarray in the Arab World is unlikely to encourage the Soveit decision-makers to reconsider their calculations to any significant extent, they say,

Other analysts disagree by countering that Moscow might come to the conclusion that its policy of appeasement of American diplomatic objectives have not only led to the weakening of its role as a superpower but has aiso not contributed to solving internal Soviet problems.

Most analysts, however, warn against illusions that the Soviet Union will regain its lost weight in international politics or that the Arab countries can count on regaining Soviet support. "Shevardnadze's resignation

could be a crucial turning point. The Soviet role will not be the same, but we also should not expect a more favourable Soviet position," an analyst said.

Losses

(Continued from page 1) since Arab aid and expatriate remittances come from these countries. It notes that aid from

Gulf states has ceased. The study predicts that the loss of aid and expatriate remittances would reflect negatively on treasury revenues which in turn would increase budget deficit.

Since Jordan has one of the highest taxing systems, it would be difficult for monetary authorities to reduce the deficit. That

would lead to reduced investment, the study predicted.

Agriculture would lose \$233 million in one year because of the loss of Kuwait, Iraq and Gulf markets.

Transport, according to the study suffered the most. More than \$250 million were invested by Jordanians in 3,000 trucks and 1,200 refrigerated trucks that used to ferry goods and agricultural products to Iraq. Kuwait and the Gulf. Revenue from Agaba port activity was expected to reach \$392 million in 1990, \$268 million levied on Iraq-destined goods.

The aviation sector lost \$237 million — \$156 million in lost revenue for Royal Jordanian and \$82 million for the Civil Aviation Authority.

Deadline

(Continued from page 1)

place, Aziz replied: "This depends on the Americans. "We wish to conclude sincere, real and serious dialogue with the American side but we reject ultimatums and threats," the

agency Thursday night quoted Aziz as saying. Iraq has not responded officially to Thursday's shock resignation by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze,

who strongly backed Washington in the Gulf crisis, Baghdad newspapers carried no editorials on Shevardnadze's resignation but their reports showed Baghdad's displeasure with his support for the United

the Gulf. The agency quoted previous criticism of Shevardnadze by Aziz, suggesting that Baghdad was happy to see him go.

States and its military allies in

It said Aziz, who visited Mosow twice in the past three months, had told Shevardnadze the Soviet Union "has not hesitated to speedily vote for the severest resolutions against Iraq

and at the same time it offers three proposals to postpone a

resolution regarding the Palestinian people. Aziz told the Soviet ambassador that Moscow had changed its

position towards the convening of the international conference on the Middle East.

"You have changed your position but how is it possible that Shevardnadze asks me to abide by international legitimacy which he himself did not abide by?" the agency quoted Aziz as telling the envoy.

Aziz reiterated Iraq's position that all Middle East problems should be discursed alongside the Gulf crisis.

President Mikhaii Gorbachev said Friday the Soviet Union was determined Kuwait should be freed from Iraqi occupation, TASS news agency said.

In his first statement on the Gulf crisis since Shevardnadze resigned Thursday, Gorbachev told the Gulf Cooperation Counall (GCC) he hoped their threeday meeting beginning in Oatar Saturday would help bring a peaceful solution.

"Greeting this high congress. gathering at such a responsible moment. I would like to confirm the determination of the Soviet Union to stand by international law and achieve restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait," Gorbachev said in a message to the GCC

issued by TASS. Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Thursday there was only a slight chance war in the Guif would be averted by a last-minute Iraqi pullout from Kuwait.

"There is a very high and serious probability of war, and a slight likelihood that Iraq would withdraw at the last minute." Tebran Radio quoted him as telling a gathering of Muslim clerics in Tehran.

The report, monitored in Nicosia, did not elaborate

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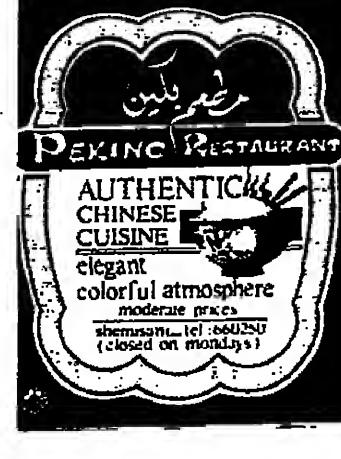
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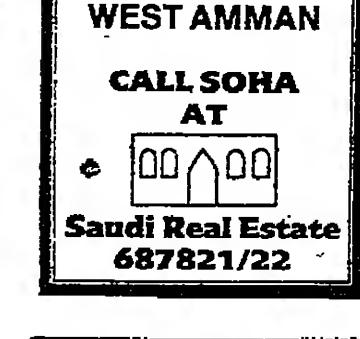
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Kasparov draws 21st title game, nears match victory

LYON, France (R) — Champion Garry Kasparov moved closer to holding the world chess crown for another three years with a tough 86-move draw in the 21st game of his match with

Anatoly Karpov. Kasparov successfully defended against a determined attempt by Karpov to win a complicated endgame.

Karpov, who now needs to win all of the three remaining games to regain the crown he held for a decade until 1989, played on doggedly for several hours in a draw position, with

LONDON (R) — Resurgent

Aston Villa be gunning for

Arsenal in Sunday's English Soc-

Internazionale of Milan in the

out to show that the jailing of

captain Tony Adams for drunk-

driving offences has not affected

their football. They will also be

looking to extend their unbeaten

league start to 18 matches — a

"A lot of eyes will be looking

at this game for different

reasons." said Villa's Assistant

"Arsenal have had a lot of

unfortunate publicity and will be

looking to put that behind them

and get people talking about

that and get people talking about

our football. We have picked up

two wins and a draw in our last

three matches although we took

a while to get into our stride and

are looking to build on that."

tional, was jailed for four

months Wednesday. Unbeaten

Arsenal have said he will return

In other weekend ties, Man-

chester United visit Wimbledon

with former England captain

from a double operation on an

left this year's World Cup early

BARCELONA (AP) - FC

Barcelona said Friday it would

appeal a Spanish Soccer Federa-

tion ruling that suspends top-

scoring striker Hristo Stoichkov

for six months for cleating a

Nunez said the team would in-

vestigate ties to arch-rival Real

Madrid among members of the

federation's four-man appeals

committee, which imposed the

Stoichkov stomped on referee

Idlefonso Urizar's foot after the

official ejected him for protest-

ing a call during a Dec. 5 Super-

cup match between Barcelona

and Real Madrid. Urizar was treated on the sidelines by the

sanction late Thursday.

Club President Jose Luis

with his international career

Barcelona to appeal

suspension of Stoichkov

The 33-year-old midfielder

to the team on his release.

nearly eight months.

achilles tendon.

referee.

Adams, an England interna-

"We have to guard against

Manager John Ward.

their football again.

Arsenal for their part will be

UEFA Cup on Nov. 7.

ciub record.

Aston Villa hopes to cap

bad week for Arsenal

only token winning chances. Kasparov now leads in the 24-game series 11-1/2 to 9-1/2,

with four wins, two losses and 15 draws. Since he needs only a 12-12 result to keep the crown, his grip on the title is virtually assured.

The players remained onstage for about 45 minutes after the end of their four-hour playing session, discussing details of the complicated two-day game.

Despite their bitter rivalry and the protracted fight for the game, the two Soviet grandmasters chatted warmly, obviously

engrossed by the various possibilities hidden in the positions reached in the game.

"It was an interesting game and Kasparov showed his superiority as an analyst. They are talking so much now because they both feel the match is basically over," U.S. grandmaster Lev Alburt said.

The next game in scheduled for Saturday, with Kasparov due to have the advantage of the first move and the white pieces.

Karpov has one time-out remaining which he may use at any time to postpone play.

NICOSIA (R) — Italy, strug-

gling to find form in the Euro-

pean Soccer Championship, face

stand that we're not going there

So far Italy, favourites in their

group, have drawn 1-1 against

Hungary and 0-0 at home with

Cyprus, who went down 4-2

against Hungary and 3-0 to Nor-

way, have been hit by a string of

Key players, including strikers

Yiannos Iacovou and George

Savvides, will miss the game.

Centre back Spyros Kastanas

and Captain Yiannos Yiangou-

dakis are included in the 19-

member squad but are not 100

Cyprus coach Panicos Iacovou

is hoping for a repeat of Febru-

ary 1983 when Cyprus scored a

respectable 1-1 draw against Ita-

ly less than a year after the

for the ride." he said.

Soviet Union.

inturies.

per cent fit.

Italy anxious for first

Alburt said: "Karpov still has some chances to win. The percentage is perhaps about 3-1 in favour of a draw, but about 25 per cent that Karpov will win."

Karpov sacrificed his rook for a bishop and pawn in order to keep hopes of a victory alive. Kasparov's swift replies made it clear that he and his assistants had done thorough job in their full night of analytical work.

After the first resumption experts felt that Kasparov's accurate defence would most likely be rewarded with a draw.

Italians had won the World Cup.

reporters that victory and disas-

ter were separated only by a

thread, has picked four uncap-

Vicini has also had problems

Stalwart Franco Baresi, argu-

ably the best defender in the

world, is out hurt and Samp-

doria's off-form striker Gianluca

His teammate Roberto Man-

cini, suffering a late injury, has

been replaced by Pisa's Lamber-

to Piovanelli, joint top scorer in

Another Sampdoria player

The only first choice players

from last summer's World Cup

who are expected to start against

Cyprus are goalkeeper Walter

Zenga, defender and Captain

Gioseppe Bergomi and Juventus

forwards Roberto Baggio and

Baggio suffered a minor injury

in training this week but should

Attilio Lombardo is expected to

the league with eight goals.

win his first cap.

Salvatore Schillaci.

be fit for the match.

Vialli has been left out.

with injuries and with players off

ped players for in his line-up.

Iacovou, who this week told



Franz Beckenbauer

Beckenbauer to stay with Marseille, get new trainer

PARIS (Agencies) — Bernard Tapie, millionaire president of French soccer champions Marseille, has said unsettled team chief Franz Beckenbauer would stay with the club and would get a top class trainer as his new assistant.

"Everything has been sorted out." he said in a television interview after two hours of tilks with Beckenbauer, who had earlier threatened to quit the club he joined only three months ago.

Tapie said Beckenbauer, who led the West German national team to success in this year's World Cup finals, had had problems adapting to French club football. He needed an assistant who knew French soccer well and who could communicate with the palyers.

"It will have to be a great trainer, he said. "His name should be known in the next two or three days:"

Beckenbauer had said repeatedly in the last few days that he was prepared to leave the club if certain unspecified problems were not sorted out with Tapie. "I made a mistake." Tapie said. "I think I have now corrected it. The mistake was to believe you can turn a national team selector for Germany into

It doesn't work like that. "If we had allowed time, at the end of one and a half to two years, he would have succeeded of course. The talent is there. But we didn't allow time, myself

a trainer with a French club side.

in particular. "The fact is that when you don't speak the language at all and when you are learning a new kind of football and when you arrive in mid-season, von need someone else on the technical staff. I have accepted that we will find this personality

Tapie, who has unbridled ambitions to see Marseille be-

come the first French winners of the European Cup, said he was not unhappy with Beckenbauer. "He's not doing bad. We're top of the league by three points and qualified for the European

Cup quarter-finals," he added. Beckenbauer has been under fire in the French media for the erratic form of his expensively assembled side. They have lost five of the 14 matches under his command and were humbled 4-0 this month by championship rivals Auxerre, a small town team with a shoestring budget.

Beckenbauer declined to comment after the talks, telling reporters simply: "I stay, I stay." As he left a two-hour meeting with Tapie, Beckenbauer was asked if he would stay on with Marseille, which he joined in September.

Beckenbauer replied: "yes." But he added, "wait for this

evening. You'll know all that there is. He referred to Tapie's plans to comment publicly on the situa-

tion during a live television programme late Thursday. "Everything's going better now," Beckenbauer said. "We talked about all the details and

In Marseille, the team's director general, Jean-Pierre Bernes, criticised Beckenbauer for going

it's going a lot better."

public with his complaints about Tapie without any warning. "It's too early to talk about divorce," said Bernes, "But without wishing to cast doubts on the man, there surely is a

problem of culture and communication with Franz Becken-Bernes described Becken-

bauer's tenure with Marseille as a failure, saying the German had not been able to feel comfortable with his players.

"(Tapie) must intervene, or the club will explode," Bernes

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY DECEMBER 22, 1990 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now that we have entered the Winter Solstice and the sign of Capricom you should be busy discussing new ideas as they relate to your immediate future. Attach yourself

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)
Don't let your family interfere with your plans to make an onslaught in the world of action so you can get more prestige, career outlets.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to handle routines better if you sit down with outside allies and decide your joint plans instead of letting fellow associates

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find you are able to carry through with the promises you have made if you refuse to allow amusements to stand in your path of progress. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) Your partners have the right idea so don't ask family for their suggestions which could be pretty poor now but rely on outsid-

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Stop. running all over the place trying to get others to do what you want and what you have agreed you would with all types of associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Have a good time every spare moment and spend as little as

possible on extravagances and instead show you value others opinion and give them a smile.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't try to uncover some mystery that intrigues you but instead get out and have the appointments, do the errands and shopping that you need.

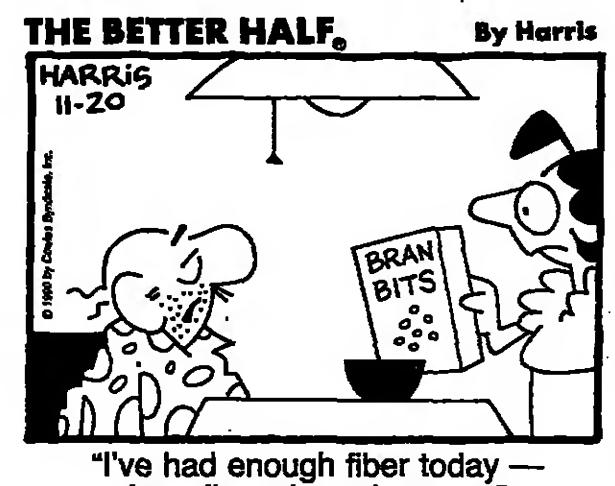
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is your time to find out what your family expects of you and to carry through with their wishes instead of working angles to get your way.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get away from those friends and acquaintances that take up your time on trivia and find how you can have a greater abundance to spare.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you steer clear of those in power and authority and centre your activities on your personal desires you can make this quite a good day.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you can get off alone to find out what confidences and experts will do to make your honest dreams come true and more easily to handle.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the moment for you to show you are the one who does have the intelligence to leave dull tasks alone and to get a scrious minded to help.



I swallowed my dentures.

JUMBILE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee Unacramble these four Jumbles Er_If you'll it's all the one letter to each square, to form just listen, dear boss's fault. four ordinary words. INGGO (29) O the return that the rate for RATAL **ELBARR** WHAT "LITTLE WHITE LIES" USUALLY ARE WEARLY Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Long way off Pile up

15 Andrea del 16 Oriental maid

18 Ballet garb

19 Aglie 20 TV vehicle

24 Desist 28 Bounds

32 Function

36 Grown-up

39 Beatles'

44 Sosters

48 Tenets

59 Expose

63 — of Arc

65 Bridle part

moman

67 Concerning

69 Having less

70 Portico kin

DOWN

3 Coy

adomment

Anny or fire

2 Great deed

5 John Jacob

and family

6 Bluish purple

7 A Johnson

8 Ticket end

10 Fritter away

9 Mediocre

68 "For Your

66 Like an old

62 Sand

51 -- disant

45 Openings

46 Summer, Fr.

(Self-styled)

52 Using an SST 12 Sailor

23 Mine output

Boundaries

35 Austin's state:

38 Muscle spasm

- de tête

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jergensen

2 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

11 Gremijn

13 Retiring

22 Expert

25 Clothing

27 Overage

30 Pondered

32 Way to go

symbols

40 Owl query? 41 Month to be

in Paris

entry: abbr.

47 Thesaurus

29 Think

31 Ailing

33 Royal

34 Moon

37 Tyrant

42 Cavier

21 Game of

chance

28 Fished with

28 Non-clerics

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

LAST SWAMP FILST

PREA OVERS ROAM

SURPAME ESPENDE

TAPED ESE ADRED

GANAPA OPERAS NICE BEGOME FAR

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BAPHTHA BOMAGOR

AWAY AMENIS SAME

SCAT MEANS AGES

outdnunc

80 Kind of party

61 Valdez spill

64 Negative

59 Box office .

58 Dines

50 Like a peach 57 Like a

51 Fence

53 Bedouin

55 Turk VIP

56 Gr. warrior

crossing

54 Napoleon won

AMA DINTEDY DANK

COPLAYERS

Jumbies: ALBUM GRAVE BRUTAL RAGLAN Answer: What the bachelor's views were-"UN-ALTAR-ABLE"

still have a role in the national cer League feature match, hoplowly Cyprus in a Group Three ing to round off a miserable match Saturday, anxious to week for the title challengers. Crystal Palace, third in the notch their first win of the qualfirst division, travel to Manches-Josef Venglos' Villa, back on ifying tournament. ter City with one objective in form after two barren months. Italian coach Azeglio Vicini mind — to stop City's playerentertain Arsenal in their first wants no mistakes. televised game since losing to "The players have to under-

manager Peter Reid.

apparently over. But new Eng-

land manager Graham Taylor

has made it clear Robson could

Crystal Palace midfielder and captain Geoff Thomas has taken upon himself the job of marking

fellow midfielder Reid. "By all accounts Peter is playing brilliantly at the moment. He is a key reason why they are doing so well." Thomas said.

"I have a lot of respect for him and for what he has achieved. It should be quite a contest. I know if I can win the battle then that is half our job done because he is so influential."

City are sixth and, with the possibility of additional places available to English sides in European club competitions next season, will be hoping to maintain their form.

League leaders Liverpool. four points ahead of Arsenal, are at home Saturday to South-

In Scotland, Aberdeen head for Ibrox determined to prevent Rangers from turning the premier division title race into a

gentle canter. Only Aberdeen and Dundee United can realistically expect to overhaul Rangers, and unless Aberdeen wins Saturday a fivepoint gap could develop at the top of the table.

Bryan Robson playing his first full league game for United in "I think most of Scotland will be looking to us to get a good result," said Aberdeen manager Robson is now fully recovered

Alex Smith.

"It is important not only to us but for the rest of Scottish football to keep interest in the title at a high pitch."

The committee, heeding calls

from outraged referees, labelled

Stoichkov's action an "aggres-

sion" and overrode a Dec. 11

ruling by a federation judge. The

judge had said the Bulgarian

striker was guilty of a "violent

action." a lesser infraction which

carried a maximum sentence of

The appeals committee also

slapped a 1.8-million-peseta

(\$19,000) fine on Stoichkov,

more than double the one asses-

sed by federation Judge Jose

An additional two-match sus-

pension in the original ruling still

Barcelona trainer.

two months.

Javier Forcens.

Faulty draining blamed for poor state of Italian pitches

ROME (R) — A Sports Ministry commission has blamed shoddy work on draining systems for making four of Italy's showpiece soccer stadiums unplayable.

In a statement Thursday, the commission said busy schedules at the Milan, Genoa, Turin and Rome grounds — prepared for the World Cup finals at a cost of \$540 million — and a very wet winter exacerbated the problem.

"One can say that the work (on the draining) was badly done," Sports Minister Carlo Tognoli said.

Players and coaches have state of the pitches and some.

complained bitterly about the including Internazionale's Andreas Brehme, have blamed them for injuries. Tognoli ordered the investiga-

the pitches)." The roofing was originally seen as a cause because it allowed less air and light to reach the ture. But although the commission found the roofing altered the

humidity inside the stadiums, the draining systems had not been adapted accordingly. Excess damp was not allowing new turf to root properly.

tion after matches at Rome's Olympic Stadium and the San Siro in Milan had turned into mudbaths and fixtures at Genoa and Turin had to be postponed Dec.9.

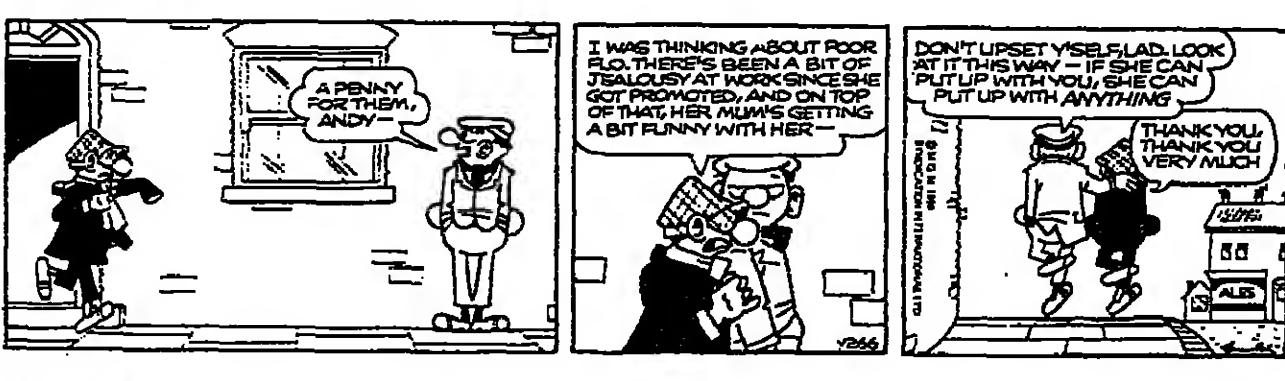
The statement said roofing built at Milan and Rome for the World Cup in the summer "cannot be considered determining causes of the deterioration (of

together.

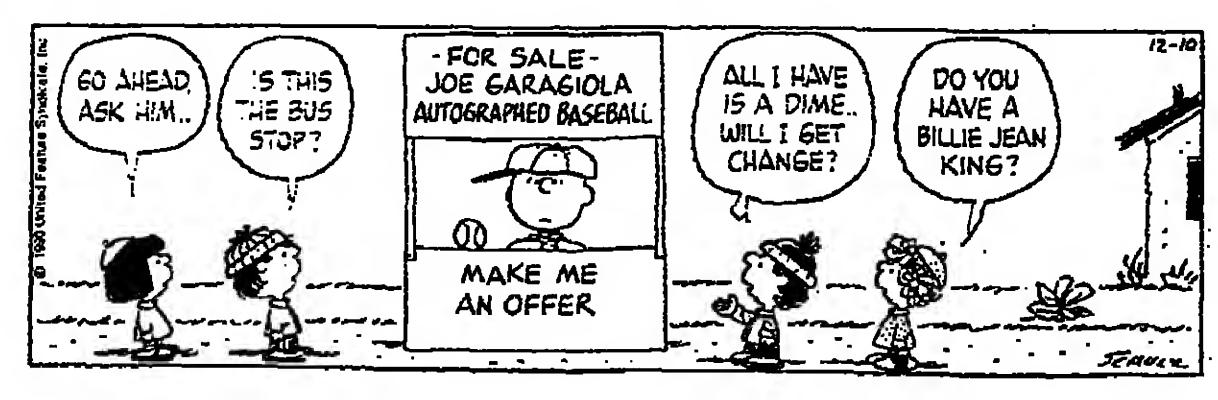
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

★ K Q 10 9

SOUTH

7 Q 9 6

A 5

±742

Opening lead: Six of Φ

P 255

P255

4 3 10 9 7 2

- J8432

West

P255

Pa55

AJ8

South

Pass

The concept of tempo somehow is

associated more with chess than

with bridge. That is not really so.

When you win a trick at bridge can

be crucial, both on offense and de-

fense. See what a difference it

WEST

9 63

★653

7 K 10 7 5

The bidding

North East

EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME

Neither vulnerable. North deals. four-card frump support. West led a top-of-nothing club NORTH and East captured dummy's queen 4 A Q 8 4 QJ 109

with the ace. That reflexive play spelled finis for the defense. For want of something better to do, East shifted to a heart. The table's ace won and declarer came to hand with of spades. In with the king, East persevered with a heart. Dummy ruffed, the outstanding trumps were drawn and the king of diamonds was forced out, whereupon declarer claimed the test of the tricks, since a club could be discarded on the tabie's diamonds.

East blew the defense at the very first trick. All that was needed was to allow dummy's queen to wan the first trick. No matter what declarer does, sooner or later West must gain the lead with the king of diamonds to shoot a club through dummy's K-10. Whether declarer finesses or plays the king. East must collect two club tricks for a one-trick set.

makes on this simple hand from a What if South had started with a rubber bridge game. singleton club? That was impossible In support of spades, North's from the opening lead. The defenhand is worth some 21 points. The sive holdup play was not only safe. jump to game describes the hand perfectly—great strength and good but vital.

U.S. capital spending to rise marginal 0.4 per cent in 1991 Righter Foundation -

WASHINGTON (R) - Spending by U.S. businesses to expand production is expected to rise a slight 0.4 per cent in 1991 after inflation, the weakest annual rate in five years since a decline in 1986, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

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september 3 to 1.

I try 10 uncore is at intrigues you be the creands and the you would not to you need.

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The control of the control of the control of through and a tead of working calls.

RIUS: (Novembo.

r 21) Get and acquare you can have a fact a spare.

DRN: (December -

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US: (January 1) ph

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(February 20 by

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By Haria

today -

MBLED WORD GAME

a table

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That follows a revised estimate of a 4.1 per cent rise in real capital spending this year, down from a 5.1 per cent increase previously anticipated.

On a quarterly basis, real spending decreased between July and September by 1.2 per cent, the first quarterly decline in business investment since the final three months of 1988, when

spending declined by 0.3 per cent, department officials said. Business plans for plant and

equipment spending are a signal of corporate managers' confidence, or lack of it, that demand for goods and services will grow enough to justify the investment. The latest estimates are based

on a survey done between October and November. It updates an earlier survey of 1990 spending plans and provides the first look at investment intentions for

The projected 0.4 per cent rise

announces in real 1991 capital spending would be the weakest investment since 1986, when spending dividend **AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES**

the latest survey.

ing steadily for the past several

months and is widely believed to

NEW YORK (AP) - Citicorp,

the nation's largest banking

company, has announced a

drastic reorganisation plan that

will slash stock dividends, quad-

ruple projected layoffs to 8,000

and set aside additional money

to cover bad loans, resulting in a

fourth-quarter loss of at least

against a background of one of

the worst years for the U.S.

banking industry since the Great

Depression and followed similar

steps taken by other leading

U.S. banks that have been ham-

mered by declining real estate

values and a slumping economy.

eventually result in a savings of

\$800 million annually.

Citicorp said the steps would

It was unclear when the

layoffs would take place but the

bank had said previously it in-

tended to lay off 2,000 workers.

aside an additional \$310 million

for commercial loan loss re-

serves, following an examination

The company also said it was

Citicorp projected a loss for

the fourth quarter would range

between \$300 million and \$100

million. Nonetheless, the com-

pany said it expects to report a

profit for 1990 ranging between

\$100 million and \$500 million.

cutting its annual dividend by 78

by federal banking auditors.

cents to \$1 per share.

Citicorp also said it was setting

The announcement came

\$300 million.

have begun a recession.

Citicorp

Thursday, December 20, 1990 Central Bank official rates

French franc 131.1 131.9 Japanese yen (for 100) 491.4 494.3 661.0 665.0 U.S. dollar Durch guilder Pound Sterline 1277.4 1285.1 Swedish crown 119,0 Deutschemark 447.1 449.8 Italian fira (for 100) 59.5 Swiss franc 521.5 524.6 Beigian franc (for 10) 216.2 217.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday

U.S. dollar

Canadian dollar

One Sterling 1.9030/40 One U.S. dollar 1.1585/95 1.5120/30 1.7060/70 1.3000/10 31.19/24 5_1375/1425 1140/1141 135.30/40 5.6800/50 5.9300/50

Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns 5.8359/8400 Danish crowns 383.70/384.20 U.S. dollars

One ounce of gold

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO - The Nikkei index closed down 405.34 points, or 1.65 per cent, at 24,119.60 after losing 351.84 Thursday.

SYDNEY - The market closed lower, depressed by the sudden resignation of Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The All Ordinaries fell 4.4 points to 1272.2.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended slightly higher after rebounding from a morning low triggered by news of the Soviet foreign minister's resignation. The Hang Seng index rose 1.46 points to dose at 3,079.67 TALT July William & AFFE TE SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrial index fell 5.65 points to 1,171.99.

BOMBAY — Shares fell for the fourth day on fears the government may raise taxes. The BSE index fell 23.44 points to 1,034.97.

FRANKFURT — The 30-share DAX index rose 5.62 points to 1,414.88 after plunging 3.3 per cent Thursday. Most operators were sidelined by year-end factors and concern about the political situation in the Soviet Union and the Gulf.

ZURICH - A surge in the dollar and Wall Street's higher opening boosted selected blue chips. The all-share SPI index rose 5.7 points to 908.9, a loss of 1.74 per cent for the week. PARIS — French share prices rebounded from the previous day's

lows as investors got their books into shape ahead of Christmas. The CAC-40 index gained 11.25 points to 1,563.97. LONDON — The FTSE 100 closed 5.6 points higher at 2164.4,

largely on the back of Wall Street strength. "There was a fair amount of volume mainly from bed and breakfast trades," said a dealer. "Despite this the market was extremely quiet and looks set to remain so until the new year."

NEW YORK — Trading dulled after a morning round of expiration closeouts. At 1730 GMT the Dow Jones industrial average was up 9.4 to 2,638.86.

Kuwaitis lend Syria \$105 million

actually fell 3.1 per cent. DAMASCUS (R) - Kuwait's The department previously toppled government agreed estimated in September that Thursday to loan 30 million 1990 real capital spending would Ktrwaiti dinars (\$105 million) on rise by 5.1 per cent but that was favourable terms to Syria, one of revised down to 4.1 per cent in the main Arab states in the ann-Iragi alliance. The economy has been slow-

Syrian officials said Kuwaita Finance Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah signed the accord with minister of state for planning, Sabah Baqjaji, during a visit to

They said the money would be used for a Damascus sanitation project costing 10 billion Syrian

interest of 2.5 per cent, the officials said.

ISTANBUL (AP) - Saudi Arabia has granted Turkey \$1.6 billion worth of crude oil to offset the economic losses this country has suffered for the embargo against Iraq, a Saudi official said Thursday.

Salih Kamil, head of a Saudi goodwill delegation, said aid be-

crisis." Kamil said.

nation's sacrifice."

Turkey has cut off twin pipelines pumping Iraqi crude through this country into oil tankers in the Mediterranean, banned all direct and transit trade with Iraq and complied with a U.N. air embargo against

amount to \$7 billion.

* + * * * *

Damascus.

pounds (\$890 million). The loan would be repaid over 25 years with five years grace at

cut, layoffs Saudis reward

gun last month.

"We know that this is not enough. That's why the United States has appealed to the Gulf countries, Germany and Japan to help those nations which have been affected most by the Gulf

He said "no price tag can possibly be put on the Turkish

its southeastern neighbour.

According to World Bank estimates, the economic loss Turkey will suffer in one year because of the Gulf crisis will

the OECD had forecast a 0.6 per cent rate growth for both Because of the rapid de-Czech parliament

passes tough budget PRAUGE (AP) - Federal parliament approved Thursday a tough budget law, seen crucial to economic reform as Czechoslovakia prepares for hard times ahead, the state news agency

CTK reported. Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, addressing parliament before the vote, said 30 per cent inflation, a five per cent drop in economic activity and a rise in unemployment to 5-7 per cent were inevitable as sweeping economic reforms begin to bite Jan.

He said Czechoslovakia's curren \$7 billion foreign debt would rise, possibly by as much as \$3 billion, CTK reported.

The budget passed Thursday awards 108.6 billion crowns (\$1.5 billion) or 22 per cent of the country's total spending to the federation for 1991. Other revenues flowing into federal coffers, such as earnings from state railroads and postal services, are to be split 35 per cent to the federation, 25 per cent to the Slovak and 10 per cent to the Czech budget.

During the session, some deputies argued a 28-billion-crown (\$1.2 billion) proposal for the military budget was too high and demanded cuts of as much as 10 per cent. A five per cent reduction was

finally accepted, bringing military spending to a total of 26.5 billion crowns (\$1.1 billion) Rejecting deputies' demands

for further cost-cutting, Defence Minister Lubos Dobrovsky warned that further reductions in military spending could be dangerous.

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OECD sees continued world growth next year despite recession in U.S.

PARIS (R) - The Guif ensis is terioration, Henderson said finally pushing the week U.S. Tuesday's half-percentage point economy into recession, but Gercut in the U.S. discount rate had many and Japan will propel the been expected, even though the industrial world as a whole to a prepared OECD report had reninth consecutive year of growth commended higher U.S. interest in 1991, the OECD said Thurs-

In its half-yearly economic outlook, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); published a forecast of two per cent growth in output by its 24 member countries in 1991, down from 2.8

per cent this year. But David Henderson, chief economist of the Paris-based think tank, admitted the estimate was already out of date because figures from Washington in the month since the outlook was compiled had been gloomier than expected.

"It's more than quite likely that there will be a recession time the United States) in the sense of two successive quarters of negative growth," Henderson told a news conference.

He said the U.S. economy was now expected to show no growth in the second half of 1990 and would probably contract in the first half of 1991. In its report,

rates in 1991 to combat inflation. "Had we known then what we know now, I don't think we would have used that phrase," he said.

But Henderson said the downturn in the United States did not change the bigger picture for the industrial world. The expected 1990 growth rate for the OECD of 2.8 per cent would have to be pared back by no more than 0.1 per cent, he said.

The agency's previous economic outlook, released in June before the Gulf crisis erupted, had forecast 2.9 per cent OECD growth both this year and next. Stephen Potter, head of the OECD's country studies division, said booming domestic demand in Japan and the impetus of unification to Germany's economy would underpin global

The OECD nevertheless expects Japanese growth to slow to 3.7 per cent in 1991 from 6.1 per cent this year and sees growth in Germany easing to three per cent from 4.2 per cent.

"Although it is popularly sup-

posed that when the U.S. sneezes, the rest of the world catches pneumonia, it's certainly not at all inevitable." Potter

Indeed, the industrial world will not only manage to skirt recession, it will start to snap out of the current slowdown by mid-1991 if proper policies are followed, the OECD said.

Central banks must not repeat the mistake of the 1970s, when they mied to cushion the impact of two oil shocks by cutting interest rates. That only made inflation worse. Instead, higher oil prices should be passed along to consumers, the OECD said.

It gave policy-makers high marks for following this advice so far and said the Gulf crisis and strains in financial markets have not yet sapped confidence to the point that businesses slash investment and consumers stop spending.

"Confidence has nonetheless become more fragile. Policymakers must play an important role in nurturing it, by responding in a way that prevents the initial boost to prices becoming embedded in a wage/price spiral." the report said.

If governments stay the course, the difficulties stemming from higher oil prices should prove to

be only temporary and growth in the OECD area should pick up to 2.5 per cent in 1992.

And inflation, projected to pick up to 4.9 per cent in 1991 from 4.3 per cent this year, would fall back to 4.3 per cent isn 1992. In June the OECD predicted 4.4 per cent inflation in 1990 and 1991.

But the report said the new projections might prove to be rosy — not only because war in the Gulf would send oil prices soaring beyond the assumed price of \$27 a barrel.

It set out a long list of "disquieting" trends - plunging equity prices, rising interest rates in some countries, a credit crunch in the United States and banking problems in Japan.

"The economic climate could therefore turn out to be more sombre than projected. This. against a background of continuing financial-market fragility in some major countries, would certainly weigh heavily on private-sector confidence which in turn would feed back to worsen economic developments," it said.

The OECD also said there was an inflationary risk in permitting a further drop in the dollar, which is already languishing near record lows against the Deutschemark.

Italy's budget seen failing to resolve state deficit problem

POME (R) - Italy's 1991 budget law, the latest attempt to bring runaway government spending under control, has cleared its last major parliamentary hurdle but many economists say the state deficit will keep growing next year.

The budget, outlining a programme of spending cuts and revenue increases that the government says will hack some 48 trillion lire (\$43 billion) off the forecast deficit for 1991, was approved by the senate early Thursday.

Although the package must return to the lower house for a final reading, political sources say approval there is guaranteed because the house of deputies has already given the green light to most of the measures. But for industrialists and

many independent economists. the law is not tough enough and they predict the government deficit, widely seen as Italy's principle economic problem, will again overshoot the target, perhaps by over 10 per cent.

"They will be back with another package before June," said Stefano Micossi, chief econemist with the industry employers' association, Confindus-

"It (the law) is incomplete and

misguided. There has been only a modest attempt to limit spending while much of the revenue increase is just theoretical," he Critics say the government has

failed to tackle the fundamental problems of health, social security and pension costs while there is insufficient control over local authority spending. Confindustria has launched a

stinging attack on the government's economic policy, warning that failure to contain public speriding and excessive wage increases in the public sector were concerning Italy to recession.

It forecast the once-buoyant economy would grow only 1.4 per cent in 1991 compared with two per cent this year while unemployment would rise.

The government programme is aimed at containing the state deficit to 132 trillion lire (\$112 billion) next year, compared with the 180 trillion (\$153 billion) to which it had officially seen to be heading.

FOR SALE INVITATION

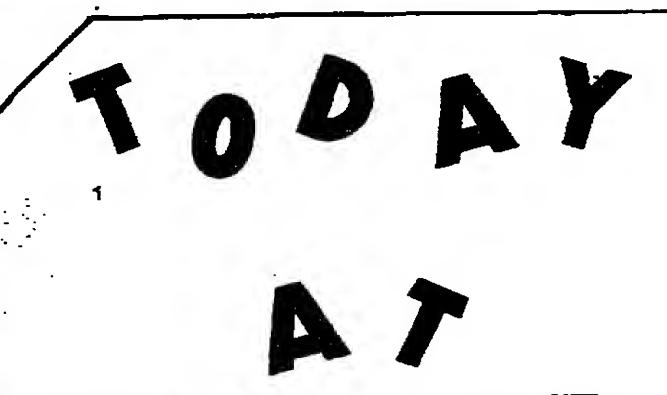
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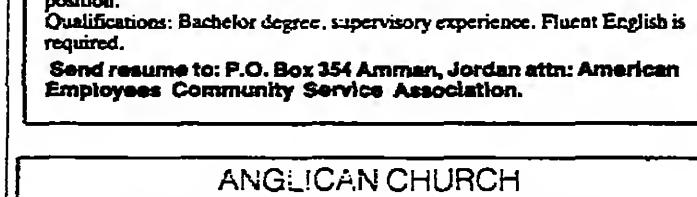
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(Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.



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Arabic/English 24.12.90 (Monday) 11:30 pm:Midnight Mass 25.12.90 (Tuesday). 17:15 am: Family Christmas Service

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ANNOUNCEMENT_

Jordanian students desirous of pursuing studies in India on self-financing basis in undergraduate courses in Engineering, Medicine and Pharmacy as also diploma courses in Engineering during the academic year 1991-92 are advised to contact the Indian Embassy, First Circle, Jabal Amman, from 30th December to 12 February 1991 between 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon with attested statements of marks

Only those with aggregate marks of 80% and above in their Tawjihi Examination & well-conversant in English language will be considered for admission.



World leaders praise Shevardnadze, lament his resignation

BONN (Agencies) — China's official reaction was terse and neutral, but other countries near the Soviet Union openly showed deep concern about the resignaton of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The announced resignation of Shevardnadze, one of the men who helped Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev end the cold war, provoked apprehensions about the future of the Soviet Union and its leader. Gorbachev said Shevardnadze agreed to stay on until a successor is chosen.

China's Foreign Ministry said only that Shevardnadze's dramatic announcement Thursday was "an internal affair of the Soviet Union. We will continue to develop friendly neighbour relations with the Soviet Union.

But Germany, fearing that failure of the Soviet president's reforms could endanger East European stability, was especially nervous.

"We can only hope that the reforms are carried out. They are good for the Soviet Union and they are good for the relationship between our people and for developments in Europe, said German Chancellor Helmut

Germans credit the Soviets, in particular Gorbachev and his foreign minister, with clearing the way for Eastern Europe's sweeping reforms and German unification.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German Foreign Minister, said he is confident of final Soviet approval of the treaty guaranteeing German sovereignty, despite the resignation of one of Moscow's leading reformers.

Genscher and Roland Dumas. the French Foreign Minister, urgently appealed for an international effort to bolster Gorbachev's reform programme with financial aid.

Dumas said he hoped Shevardnadze's "cry of alarm" would be heard.

"It will serve as a warning to Western countries and others who are dragging their feet over aid which must be given," he said. Dumas said Shevardnadze had privately shared with him his concerns about the future of the Soviet Union but noted "this is the first time that he says it publicly.

The foreign ministers of the 12-nation European Community, which recently pledged \$2.8 billion in aid to Soviets, viewed Shevardnadze's resignation "with regret."

A statement said the EC nations "express their firmest hope that the resignation ... will not entail changes in Soviet policy which might call into question the significant results thus far achieved in international relations ... in the direction of disarmament and peace."

In Poland, which has a 700mile (1,100-kilometre) border with the Soviet Union, Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski said the internal situation there can "in many respects ... cause anxiety."

"The decision of Eduard Shevardnadze can be treated as a warning. Internal policy, especially that of a superpower. finds reflection in foreign policy." he

The prime minister of Lithuania, Kazimiera Prunskiene, told a news conference in Tokyo Friday that ber independence-minded republic is alarmed by Shevardnadze's resignation.

She said it may mean that progress achieved by the properestroika forces is being turned back by conservative forces, including sections of the Communist Party and the milit-

"His resignation may lead to a situation that is unfavourable for Lithuanian independence." she

There was a worldwide outpouring of praise for Shevardnadze, a welcome guest in many capitals. U.N. Secretary-General

Javier Perez de Cuellar toid reporters: "on a personal basis, I regret this. He is a personal

friend and he was very supportive of the United Nations."

Vatican Radio hailed Shevarduadze as the "great architect of the Soviet diplomacy that contributed to ending the cold

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said he was "really surprised by the sudden announcement. I would like to watch the situation calmly."

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Friday that Shevardnadze's resignation raises matters of "immediate worry" for Gorbachev's leadership.

"The optimistic view is that it could act a warning shot to galvanise the reformers, there does seem to be at least an attempt by Mr. Shevardnadze to do just that by the style and the forcefulness of his resignation speech." Evans said_

U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III called the outgoing minister his friend, but said Gorbachev had assured him that Soviet foreign policy would continue on course.

U.S. Gen. John R. Galvin, NATO's military commander in Europe, said bluntly: "The Soviets certainly face a bleak winter. I hope what we're hearing now doesn't make it any

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said President

George Bush still intended to go to Moscow in February for a meeting with Gorbachev.

"We don't expect it to affect the summit," Fitzwater said. "We expect to continue the arms control discussions."

Kohl, grim-faced, said: "I regret this very much ... we cannot really judge from here whether this is grounds for alarm." British Foreign Secretary

Douglas Hurd said London hoped the policies of reform that Shevardnadze supported would be continued. "I have worked with him now

for a year on a whole range of very difficult matters and I have always found him friendly, helpful and constructive," Hurd said. "It is a sadness he has decided to resign."

Fitzwater, asked about Soviet support for the United States in the Gulf, said: "We believe the commitment from the Soviet Union comes from President Gorbachev and the leadership of the country and we don't anticipate that it would be affected. Baker said Shevardnadze's warning that the Soviet Union was sliding towards dictatorship

"We would obviously be foolish not to take the warning in Minister Shevardnadze's resignation statement seriously, he told a news conference. Praising Shevardnadze as "a

had to be taken seriously.

man of his word," Baker said he had received no hint in recent meetings that he contemplated resignation.

"I am proud to call this man a friend. I think we achieved some significant things in the 21 months we worked together and on a personal note, I am going to miss him," Baker said.

There was no immediate reaction from British Prime Minister John Major.

Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who met Shevardnadze several times, called him "a statesman of world re-

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Israel Radio:

"We are worried in a certain way, because our relations with Shevardnadze every time we had a chance to meet with him were excellent. But I don't think there's any reason for special WOTTY."

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said: "I am shocked because it's such a sudden and dramatic decision, also because of the reasons behind it. which underscore the gravity and danger of the political conflict going on in Moscow."

Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said he hoped a way could be found to bring Shevardnadze back into the Soviet government. "Perhaps in a way ... as a consequence of the shock of this development, (it) may generate more support for that kind of a reform movement in the Soviet

Union," Clark said. Simon Lunn, deputy secretary-general of the North Atlantic Assembly, which groups NATO parliamentarians, said: "We're seeing a decline ... that could set us all back many years. This has potentially all sorts of nasty implications for

future relations." European Community President Jacques Delors said he was dismayed and "a little more worried than before," adding: "I have seen that for some days Mr. Gorbachev has been forced to make concessions to a certain element."

Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said he hoped Gorbachev would "steer a steady course" and "pursue his reform programme."

He told the Belgian News Agency, Belga, that the resignation "was not entirely unexpected ... but the circumstances are astonishing."

Soviet experts in the United States said Shevardnadze's resignation was a shock that underscored domestic turnoil in the Soviet Union.

They praised Shevardnadze's cordial relationship with the Reagan and Bush administra-

Baltic states fear Shevardnadze resignation could mean crackdown

MOSCOW (R) — Rebel Baltic republics fear that the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze could herald a crackdown on them by the Kremlin.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia — all headed by elected pro-independence governments - are already reeling from scattered violence, a show of force by the Soviet military and tough talk from President Mikhail Gorbachev.

But the dramatic loss of Shevardnadze, one of the central pillars of Gorbachev's perestroika policy, has removed one of the few liberals in the top leadership.

It has highlighted the growing influence of the hardliners, who are demanding a crackdown on the accelerating separatism in the Baltics, the Caucasian republic of Georgia and other re-"Promises by the militarists to

'instil order' ... are especially directed at the independence of the Baltic states," Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said in a statement on Shevardnadze's departure.

The Soviet foreign minister himself warned of unpending dictatorship in his resignation speech in parliament Thursday. In the Baltic region scattered

bomb blasts — blamed by locals on military provocateurs — the build-up of Soviet army forces and increasingly vocal opposition by pro-independence activists have left the region in tur-

Many local leaders expect some Kremlin action to stem the "disorders," virtually the same pretext used in 1939 and 1940 to bring in large contingents of the Soviet army to boost existing garrisons.

The powerful popular fronts, which spearheaded the independence movement, have begun planning for the suspension of their elected governments and the imposition of presidential rule, something Gorbachev said Wednesday may be necessary in "trouble spots."

An action programme drawn up by the Latvian Popular Front spells out steps to protect the republic's fledgling bid for statehood both before and after what it calls "X-hour."

Plans include "decentralising" communications equipment and computers to protect them from any move by the Soviet military to seize the republic's parliament, 24-hour radio broadcasts, civil disobedience and work stoppages.

The Estonian parliament has appealed to citizens to organise protest campaigns in the case of Soviet "re-occupation."

"The possibility exists of the Soviet Union applying pressure to reverse democratic developments in the republic," said the appeal issued Tuesday.

And the city council in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius approved a call to bring the city to a standstill should Moscow

move against the republic. In the big Lithuanian port of Klaipeda, the local garrison commander has been authorised by Moscow to step up military patrols and to check documents of "suspicious" civilians, the city's mayor said by telephone.

The special order, invoking instructions from Gorbachev and Defence Minister Dmitri

Yazov, also allows arrest of anyin Greece one "offending servicemen in

any manner." Klaipeda Mayor Vytautas Cepas said there had been no arrests under the special order and dismissed the order's reference to "increased beatings of servicemen" as groundless.

"This is an obvious provoca tion aimed to destabilise the situation in the city of Klaipeda. And I think they plan to spread this all over the republic," he

The Lithuanian parliament has sent a note to Gorbachev protesting the deployment of Soviet army patrols in Klaipeda According to the TASS news

agency, the commander of the Klaipeda garrison notified Lithuanian authorities Wednesday that armed units would begin patrolling the streets and have the authority to check people's documents.

The presidium of the republic's Supreme Council, or parliament. Thursday demanded that military orders authorising the patrols be immediately rescinded and that the officers who issued the orders be punished.

"This order is a flagrant violation of the laws and the rights of citizens of the republic of Lithuania, as well as a political provocation with the intent to heighten tensions and to create potential conflicts," a copy of the note telexed to Western news agencies said.

The note called on Gorbachev to "revoke the mentioned directives of the Soviet army authorities and to punish them for their willful behavior which is accompanied by the threat of armed

Quake kills 1

ATHENS (R) — Tousands of people fled their homes in northern Greece Friday in the strongest earthquake to strike the area in 12 years, police said.

The quake, measuring 5.5 on the open-ended Richter Scale, was felt throughout northern Greece and southern Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. It caused panick among the one million population of Salonika. Greece's second largest city.

"A 70-year-old woman was killed when her house collapsed. We have no further reports of casualties but a number of old buildings collapsed, others were seriously damaged and the people are in the streets," said a senior police officer at Edessa. near the Yugoslavian border.

"Police and army units have been mobilised and parents have been advised to pick up their children from schools," he said Police in Salonika said panic was widespread, with people fleeing their homes, but no

casualties were reported. "Some people were still asleep when the quake struck. It felt like an explosion and had a long duration. There were panic shouts from everywhere and people fled their homes and

The Athens Seismological Institute logged the tremor at 8 a.m. (0700 GMT) with its epicentre 350 kilometres north of Athens. Power and telephones were cut in many villages in the area.

offices," a Salonika official said

It was the second earthquake to hit southern Europe within a

41 Tamil rebels killed in Sri Lankan offensive

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops raided seven villages in eastern Sri Lanka, killing 32 Tamil Tiger rebels as they

The government also imposed a curfew on four districts in the military operation to capture rebels operating in villages.

cannot be identified by name under briefing rules. They said nine other Tamil

separate operations in the north and the east. "We are going all out to get them in the east. There will be no let up," said one official. He

said 1,015 suspected rebels have

in Batticaloa was imposed just

tered seven nearby villages to search for rebels. The area is 230 kilometres east of Colombo, the

Ranjan Wijeratne said Friday a curfew was also imposed in the eastern district of Ampara and the northern districts of Vavuniva and Mullaitivu. "We are cleaning out the rem-

nants," Wijeratne told reporters, refusing to reveal deatils of the operation, code named Flush The 32 rebels killed were shot

trying to flee in boats across the lagoon, the officials said. In Akkaraipattu, another eastern area, police commandos fought pitched battle with the Tigers, killing five of them, the

officials said. In the northern Jaffna peninsula, 300 kilometres north of Colombo, army snipers fatally shot four rebels near the Palali Military Airfield, the officials

The Batticaloa curfew was to be lifted Friday but has been extended until Saturday, a government announcement said.

Military officials refused to say how many troops were involved in the operations, adding there were "enough to do the

before government troops en-

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's military rulers have banned a political party whose chairman fled to the border to head a provisional government, official

Rangoon Radio said. The radio, monitored in Bangkok Thursday, said Sein Win chairman of the Party for National Democracy, had formed a parallel government in collaboration with the insurgents, thereby contravening

"Therefore the registration of the Party for National Democracy as a political party with this (election) commission has been

The small Party for National Democracy was set up as a paraliel to the National League for army outlawed the main party. The League's secretary general, Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest since

Sein Win and seven other politicians elected in May set up a provisional government Tuesday at a guerrilla base at Manerplaw on the border with Thai-

The so-called National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma links the parliamentarians with 21 dissident and ethnic groups who have waged an armed struggle against the military government since 1988 under the banner of the Democratic Alliance of Burma.

The military took power in September 1988 after crushing a

Burma rulers ban party

Burmese law.

revoked."

Democracy in 1989 in case the

nationwide pro-democracy up-

Soviets willing to dissolve U.N. trusteeship in Pacific

For decades, Moscow had claimed that the United States bullied the Pacific trust territories into doing its bidding by giving them special economic favours in exchange for maintaining the rights to military bases and ranges.

The Trusteeship Council members - the United States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union - also are permanent members of the Security Council, with veto power.

dors, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Soviets would vote in favour of the dissolution when it comes before the Security Council.

Vanuatu, which presides over the South Pacific Forum countries, circulated a letter Thursday from the forum to the Security Council, and Trusteeship Council calling for the partial dissolution of the trust arrange-

Aquino names new military

MANILA (R) - President Corazon Aquino Friday named

Addressing troops at military headquarters, Camp Aguinaldo, Aquino said coup leaders would be punished with the strongest

penalties. Ending weeks of speculation, she announced to cheers and clapping that Major-General Rodolfo Biazon would replace

la, when he retires in January. Bus she said Biazon would serve only until his own scheduled retirement at the age of 56 next April, and military sources said the appointment appeared to be a reward for his key role in putting down last December's

Aquino said under De Villa topple the government had

diers' adventurism, again and again, proved that our newlystrong and unyielding," declared Aquino, who has survived seven army revolts, comprising six

She ordered a continuing purge of either disloyal or disbonest soldiers, saying it was essential to weed out the remaining few who dishonoured the profession. She gave warning that anyone taking part in a fresh coup attempt would face "the

ders to be unrelenting in their efforts to weed out the remaining undesirables." Army chief Major-General Guillermo Flores, who will become Biazon's deputy chief-of-

staff and likely successor, this

Flores has given orders to hesitate to take similar action against others "who go astray."

On Wednesday, a Philippine military court delivered its strongest warning yet to army rebels plotting to overthrow Aquino, sentencing 81 officers and men who took part in a coup attempt in 1987 to jail terms of

volt, said the people must have confidence in the security forces. one of Aquino's most loyal generals, but his appointment

was controversial Tough and outspoken, he has developed enemies within the military, congress and the labour movement.

Fishy money traps robbers

CAIRO (R) — Bank notes smelling of fish gave away five Egyptians who robbed a bank van of 1.7 million pounds (\$600,000) last month. Theywere arrested after a tip-off from a jeweller in Alexandria where. they left the smelly notes as a down payment on gold items, security sources said. The jeweller recalled that a fish merchanf had told police after the robbery that some of the money he had deposited smelled of his wares.

Thatcher gets **Order of Merit**

LONDON (AP) — Queen Eizabeth II invested former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with the Order of Merit. The investiture took place in private in the queen's audience room at Buckingham Palace, a spokesman said. The Order of Merit, founded in 1902, outranks all other royal honours and is a personal gift of the queen. The award was in recognitionn of Mrs. Thatcher's service as prime minister for 111/2 years. Mrs. Thatcher, 65, resigned Nov. 22 after failing to win the first round of the Conservative Party leadership contest outright. Only the monarch and 24 others can be members of the Order of Merit, founded by King Edward VII. A vacancy was created by the death last year of Lord Olivier, the actor Laurence Olivier.

Thatcher honours aides

LONDON (R) — Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has rewarded an inner circle of advisers with farewell honours for their devotion during her 11½ years in office. Traditionally, an outgoing British Prime Minister is given a final chance to ask Queen Elizabeth to bestow titles that allow the holder to be called "Sir," "Lord" or Lady." The result was an honours list of Thatcher servants political and domestic. A top reward went to her forceful press secretary, Bernad Ingham, who was made a knight. So was private secretary Charles Powell, who helped with foreign policy. Brian Griffiths, head of Thatcher's policy unit, was made a baron. Ingham, 58, whose mood vected between affability and irascibility, had presided over cosy twice-daily "lobby" sessions with senior journalists to impart details of the prime minister's movements, decisions and attitudes.

Ex-owner reopens Mustang Ranch

RENO, Nevada (R) - Only a

month after federal tax collectors anctioned off his Nevada brothel known as the Mustang Ranch, former owner Joe Conforte threw open its doors again —this as manager. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had seized the bawdy house from Conforte and last month sold it at auction for \$1.49 million. The move came after a long legal fight in which Conforte refused to pay \$13 million in back taxes. The buyer was Mustang Properties, represented by Reno lawyer Victor Perry. His brother, Peter Perry, is Conforte's attorney and has said Conforte does not have any ownership interest in the brothel. Conforte appeared before the Storey County commission to reclaim the brothel's operating licence, which apparently was not revoked by the local authorities. "Mr. Conforte came before us, as he said, as a courtesy to let us know he. had a valid operating licence and he should be able to reopen," said County Commissioner Shirley Colletti, herself a former manager of the Mustang. "It is my personal opinion that he is definitely correct as far as the law is concerned," she added. The licence cannot be cancelled without due legal process, including a public hearing, size

Siberlan cranes enjoy Iran's warm weather

cranes from Siberia are extending their stay in Iran, where the autumn has been the warmest in three decades. Some 5.000. cranes in marshes near the centrai city of Arak "show no signification of wanting to leave" weeks after the dates they usually set out for warmer climes further south, Tehran's Abrar daily said.

violence... Cambodian premier joins foes at Paris peace table

PARIS (R) — Leaders of the Phnom Penh government and the guerrilla coalition fighting it in Cambodia met for talks in Paris Friday on a U.N. formula to end 12 years of civil war. The foreign ministers of France and Indonesia, Roland Dumas and Ali Alatas, both heavily involved in efforts to end one of the world's longest con-

which may run until Saturday. Dumas and Alatas formally handed Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and leaders of the three guerrilla groups a draft peace settlement adopted last month by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council - Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

flicts. opened the meeting.

It offers what has peen described as the United Nations' most ambitious international peace plan, a scheme involving hundreds of peacekeepers and administrators costed at up to \$2 billion. Buddhist monks in saffron

robes chanted prayers for peace outside the Kleber Conference Centre near the Arc de Triomphe. Khieu Samphan, leader of the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful guerrilla group, stopped and bowed his head briefly in acknowledgement on arriving. But before a U.N. corps canbe dispatched to monitor a cease-

fire and run Cambodia during an

interim period leading to elec-

tions, the "big five" sponsors of

the scheme must have the backing of the four factions. "You cannot impose peace,"

said a senior Western official who worked on the draft. "The Cambodians need to be on

board." To achieve that end, the U.N. has proposed a Supreme National Council (SNC) made up of the four factions which would work with the interim U.N. administration and embody Cambodian

sovereignty.

representing Phnom Penh, half the three-party guerrilla coalition — was set up in September but broke up in disarray without discussing the U.N. blueprint. The Paris meeting will thus provide a first exchange of views on the plan as well as the chance

to show the world if the arch-

The 12-member SNC — half

enemies can at last take a common stance on peace. Initial hopes that the meeting would produce a 1990 breakthrough for Cambodia have dimmed in recent weeks following tough language on the plan from Phnom Penh and its Vietnamese

Both have quaims about handing authority to the United Nations during an interim period and are reluctant to demobilise regular troops in fear of a return of the radical Khmer Rouge, driven from power by Vietnam in 1979.

to reassure Hun Sen that this formula can work and to ease his concern about the Khmer Rouge," a Western diplomat "We cannot, unfortunately,

keep them out of a peace accord

without facing the risk of more

"What we hope to do now is

war. But we can keep them

under control." However, officials from Asia and Westerners close to the negotiations are pessimistic that Hun Sen will swallow the accord

Since July the once-tranqui

Sra Mor village in Cambodia has

at this juncture.

been sucked into the smouldering war, its stilt houses smashed by rockets, its people forced temporarily to abandon their After the attack government troops ordered some 4,000 families to protected areas, giving them a

when soldiers withdrew earlier this month. "They accused us of helping the guerrillas and said that if we didn't go quickly we would be

litle rice and salt. They returned

shelled." farmer Prum Min said. Villagers said the army forced them out of their homes last July and mage them move to government-controlled Route 12, about 25 kilometres to the east.

For much of the decade-long

conflict villages along the Stoung

River have, like much of central

Cambodia, stayed free of the fighting which was concentrated on the country's fringes. Since Vietnam's withdrawal from Cambodia in late 1989, guerrilla factions, pinned down for a decade on the Thai border by much larger Vietnamese

government troops accidentally

fired a salvo of rockets into this

village in central Kompong

intoads.

withdrew from positions near the new settlement in early December the villagers returned forces, have made considerable Eight people were killed when

"There was no time, there was nothing they could do," said an officer of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, one of the guerrilla groups expanding its influence in the area.

"Civilians don't know what to do (when there is shelling). Soldiers know to get down and take cover," said the officer. Small groups of civilians. fleeing shelling from both sides,

throughout Siem Reap province. "This war is really tough on us. We want it to end quickly," said farmer Mong Khon. "Our trust has run out. We don't believe any of the leaders any mere."

Prum Min. 79, from Veal Thal

village described how troops ar-

have taken shelter in deep forest

rived one evening and told the people to prepare their things because they had to leave at six o'clock the next morning. Prum Min said eight villages with about 4,000 families were moved to an unprepared section

of Route 12 and given only basic

supplies. Villagers said malaria and hunger had taken their toll. Many became sick, some had When Phnom Penh soldiers

"Of course we're happy to be back but there's not enough rice because we couldn't tend our fields. We lost one barvest," said Prum Min.

Deputy Defence Minister

tried to flee, military officials said Friday. north and east as part of the

The latest offensive was conducted Thursday in the eastern Batticaloa district. The troops were aided by low-flying airplanes, said the officials, who

Tiger militants were killed and 22 captured Thursday in two

been arrested. The claims could not be independently confirmed. There was no word from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which has been fighting since 1983 to set up an independent nation in the north and the east for Sri

Lanka's ethnic Tamill minority. Military officials said a curfew

July 1989, is a patron.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) -The Soviet Union is willing to dissolve the U.N. trusteeship over the Northern Marianas. Marshall Islands and Micronesia, ending Moscow's insistence on U.N. supervision of the islands, diplomats said Thurs-

Security Council diplomats.

including American and Non-Aligned Movement officials, say the Soviets are willing to dissolve the 13-year-old Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, except for Palau, which has yet to approve a new political status and remains under U.S. administration.

The Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands have pushed for the termination so that their governments could gain worldwide diplomatic recognition, especially from Britain and Europe.

The diplomats and ambassa-.

ment.

commander

the general who helped put down the sixth and most bloody coup against her as new head of the Philippine Armed Forces and ordered a purge of disloyal and dishonest soldiers.

the present armed forces chiefof-staff, General Renato De Vil-

coup attempt. the armed forces had helped turn the tide against the Communist insurgency in the Philippines, while all attempts by right-wing army dissidents to

"The failure of the rebel solrestored democracy has grown coup attempts and a rebellion.

highest penalties." "Some soldiers and exsoldiers have been implicated in a number of illegal activities." Aquino stated. "I have directed ... the major service comman-

month sacked 224 soldiers linked to a failed revolt last October on Mindanao Island, the biggest group so far to be purged by the military. disband units whose loyalty was suspect and said he would not

up to 32 years. Aquino, swept to power in 1986 popular-backed military re-Biazon, a highly-decorated U.S.-trained Marine officer, is

TEHRAN (R) — Migratus